

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXIV.]

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RIOTS.

On December 19th, at Shanghai, the wife of O. KOPPELMAN, of a son.

On December 21st at the Peak Hospital, Hongkong, the wife of E. TRUSCH, Lappa Customs, of a son.

At Victoria Hospital, the wife of H. HORLEY, Civil Accountant, Army Service Corps, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

On December 12th, at H.B.M.'s Legation Peking, Rev. A. G. BRYSON, of the U.M.S. Ts'ang-chow, to NORMAN LENWOOD, M.B., Ch.B., of the Women's Hospital, Peking.

DEATHS.

On December 16th, at Shanghai, on board the s.s. *Poochi*, ROBERT PURDON DUNSMORE, aged 33 years.

On December 18th, at Shanghai, ROBERT PUGHAM, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Campbell.

On December 27th, at Victoria Hospital, Barker Road, Peak, Miss DHUNRAI, youngest daughter of Mr. Sorabjee Dhunjeebhoy Setna (of Messrs. Phiroosha B. Petit & Co.), aged 9 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English mail of November 30th arrived per the s.s. *Delta*, on Thursday, the 27th inst.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

The operations in Formosa have ended successfully, and large tracts of arable land, camphor forests, and tea plantations have been added to the area under civilized rule.

The coolie arrested on suspicion of the murder of Mr. J. B. Craik at the Kowloon Docks has been discharged, having satisfied the police that he had no connection with the outrage.

The Kawasaki shipbuilders launched a 2,500 ton steamer, the *Yoh-yang*, for the N.Y.K.K. on Christmas day. She appears to be a triple decker, designed for passenger traffic.

The last number of the *Foochow Echo* to hand is full of the race week and its social doings. "It has been a most dissipated week," remarks our contemporary, "but we all regret it is over."

The *N.C. Daily News* learns from a private telegram from Mukden that there is reason to believe that the death of Mr. Fairchild, the American Deputy Consul in that town, was the result of an accident.

While the Rev. J. H. France was conducting divine service at the sailor's Home chapel on Dec. 23, robbers broke in to his house and carried off silverware to the value of \$400. The police have the matter in hand.

The *Gazette* notifies that Mr. S. Kelly, Inspector (Third Class), in the Sanitary Department, has been suspended from the exercise of his office pending the decision of the Secretary of State for the Colonies regarding his dismissal from the Government service.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in Messrs. S. Moutrie & Co., Ltd. was held at Shanghai on December 17th for the purpose of considering the advisability of increasing the capital of the Company. Mr. E. C. Pearce presided. A resolution investing the Board with power to increase the capital of the firm from \$250,000 to \$500,000 was passed.

On Dec. 21 Major C. G. Pritchard, commandant of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps, left for England by the transport *Sicilia*. A large number of brother officers and civilians gathered at Queen's Statue pier to bid farewell to the veteran and his wife, and accompanied them on board where the Major's health was drunk and the last farewell taken.

At 8.25 on Dec. 27th the Electric light failed and for about an hour and a half the big blocks of buildings in the central district which depend on the Company's supply were left in darkness. It was guest night at the King Edward Hotel and the *concerts* occurred in the midst of the dinner; the band suddenly ceased to play, but with the aid of a supply of rushlights they were able to complete the programme and the guests their dinner.

On December 17th the Chinese Emperor issued a Decree, in response to a memorial from Yin Ch'ang, Commander-in-Chief of Kiangpeh, commanding fifteen large sticks of Tibetan incense to be sent to Tsingkiangpu for the memorialist to offer before the altars of the Dragon River gods as a mark of the Imperial gratitude for their protection accorded the Grand Canal which was threatened to be overwhelmed by freshets in the autumn.

The s.s. *Birma* which arrived in port on Dec. 22nd brought two royal visitors to our shore, one being H.R.H. Prince Valdemar of Denmark, and the other H.R.H. Prince George of Greece. The pair are taking advantage of an extended tour which has offered, to see the Orient, and are not therefore travelling in an official capacity. When the vessel entered port a royal salute came from the guns of H.M.S. *Tamar*. The *Birma* is expected to remain in port for three or four days.

On Dec. 24 at the office of the P. W. D. the sale by public auction of land at Hunghom took place, the property being knocked down without competition to the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company for \$36,312. Another lot of Crown land at Shankwan was disposed of to Messrs. Butterfield and Swire for \$34,482.

There are indications that the Commission to inquire into irregularities in connection with the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance will soon bring its labours to a close. Mr. Hooper announced at the meeting of the Sanitary Board on Dec. 27th that the report might be in the hands of H.E. the Governor next month.

It will be remembered that Mr. A. H. Rennie some time ago purchased Sir Paul Chater's launch, *Christine*, to replace his own lost during the typhoon. She has been re-named the *Canada* and has been fitted up as a steam launch. Her motive power is no longer steam but liquid fuel, and on a trial run yesterday she proved herself the fastest launch in the harbour, doing thirteen knots an hour easily. When she leaves the Kowloon Dock Company she will be one of the best equipped in the harbour, while in the matter of speed she will be without a rival.

It appears that a native of China may enter the Philippines if he can show that he has been "adopted" by a fellow countryman, and if under age. In January of last year a Chinese boy arrived in Cebu on a ship, direct from China. The collector of customs at that port would not allow the Chinese to land. But this Chinese had friends ashore and one of them appealed to the Insular collector of customs, who allowed the boy to remain on shore pending an appeal that had been made to higher authorities, and to deposit a cash bond of \$1,000. After much argument the court of first instance of Cebu decided that as this Chinaman had been adopted by a resident of Cebu, that resident had a right to his lawful son. The supreme court affirmed the decision of the lower court, and the Chinese is now a recognized citizen of Cebu.

"American" writes to a contemporary as follows:—If the speech of the new American Judge at the dinner of the American Association of China, as reported in your columns this morning, correctly represents that gentleman's ideas, it would seem regrettable that the learned gentleman comes among us with such grave misconceptions of the status of Americans and *pari passu* that of other foreigners. I refer to that portion of his address in which he is reported to have said that we are here "really at the sufferance of the Chinese Empire." Such a contention would not be admitted for a minute by either Washington or any of the other Foreign Offices. We are really here in protection of vested interests and in consequence of treaties which in the last analysis rest on the power of the foreign Powers, including America, to enforce them, and any attitude such as that of Judge Wilfay should be much deplored, the more especially at the present time when certain elements in Chinese life are showing signs of restiveness under existing conditions. The power of the American Government to establish a constitutional or extra-constitutional court here is to be determined by Congress or their own Supreme Court, but the right to do so under the treaty is not qualified by any act of sufferance of the Chinese Government, and it is unwise to let so dangerous an idea get abroad, especially when emanating from so eminent a source as the learned judge.

THE WEATHER.

(Daily Press, December 24th.)

Although perhaps not yet strictly true of Hongkong, we may accept with interest and satisfaction the dictum of WILLIAM J. S. LOCKYER, Ph.D., F.R.A.S., that "the new meteorology—namely, 'World Meteorology'—has dawned." A remarkably hot summer at Home, and an early set in of a disagreeable winter, with snow early in November, has made "the weather" a topic in the mail papers; and the periodicity of climatic abnormalities has been noticed even by non-experts. On the eve of a soaking-drizzly Christmas here, the subject of weather may also be considered topical locally. What Dr. LOCKYER means by "World Meteorology" is easily explained. Until a comparatively few years ago, meteorological institutions studied the changes and collected data in their own immediate areas. They did very well, too, and their labour was not wasted; its results are valuable even to the science of "World Meteorology," now being synthesized. But their meteorology was—as Hongkong's is alleged to be—of the "parochial" kind. Some of the more enthusiastic of them realized that their own areas did not tell them all they needed to know, so they entered into mutual compacts with neighbouring countries for the exchange of data. This gave to meteorology a national or continental status. The synthesist of "World Meteorology" well knows to-day that even that was but a step on the right road to complete usefulness, and the "World Meteorologist" requires to know not only the occurrences of neighbouring countries but of all the globe, even to the extreme antipodal area. In this colony and neighbourhood the immediate need of the public is to be warned of approaching storms, especially those of the peculiar typhoon type. In larger communities and for even larger interests to be prepared for the weather of to-morrow is not so important as to be prepared for the character of a whole season ensuing. The wider meteorology promises to tell whether next summer will be fine or wet, whether the next winter will be mild or severe. Dr. LOCKYER says so. But much patient observation, much careful recording, and much unselfish co-operation, is yet required. The huge atmospheric envelope of our globe is subject, far beyond its contiguous strata with which we are more or less familiar, to a peculiar oscillation and these oscillations are believed to be periodic. The praiseworthy work of Mr. BLANFORD, a meteorologist employed by the Indian Government, was responsible for this important discovery. Dr. LOCKYER and Sir NORMAN LOCKYER followed up his comparison of barometric pressures in India and Siberia, and as the result of collating the observations of 95 stations all over the world, they found a regular antipodal see-saw. When the pressure in Australia, to give an illustration, is extra high, the pressure in the United Kingdom is correspondingly low.

"In fact, it seemed that the Indian region was about the centre of one area, while the Argentine and Chili formed the centre of the antipodal region. By classifying the different types of pressure changes according as they resembled the two main and opposite types, namely, Bombay (India) and Cordoba (Argentina), it became possible to trace out a boundary line separating these two large areas. It was at once seen that each of the regions which Blanford and Hildebrandson had pointed out as behaving in a reverse manner to each other were situated on opposite sides of this boundary line, and should therefore exhibit opposite pressure changes, according to the nature of this large see-saw. A similar classification of pressure types was undertaken by Professor

Bigelow, of the United States Weather Bureau, and he corroborated almost exactly this world wide barometric surge."

If the reader will take a pencil, dip one end in syrup, and slowly turn it round, backwards and forwards, as the syrup collects at the depressed end, we take it he would get a good idea of the behaviour of the world's atmosphere, as more technically described above. It is not a wave of high and low pressure travelling round the globe, but a huge to-and-fro swing, in which the air partially deserts one hemisphere to mass on the other. It acts easterly and westerly, and is believed to be quite as important as the changes hitherto observable between the equator and the poles. Big things like droughts of continental scope may be confidently foretold and timed when the periodicity of this phenomenon has been mastered. At present one motion, to-and-fro included, is calculated to occupy on an average nearly four years, but a juster average will be possible in the future. The centre of the field varies naturally from its circumferential parts, and as the intervals do not appear to be of equal duration, nothing very definite in the way of forecasts can be expected till time has permitted more comprehensive study. The great thing for the moment is that such important forecasts are confidently predicted; the prophet himself and his advent is prophesied.

DEPRECIATION OF VOTES.

(Daily Press, December 25th.)

It is indicative of the disorganised condition of public feeling at home that neither the advocates nor the opponents of a measure which has been attracting or rather distracting public attention to a degree far beyond its intrinsic importance, should have be-thought themselves of looking at the practical side of the matter. We allude once more to the recent clamour with regard to women suffrage. The principal danger in the present position of affairs is not whether women should have votes or not,—the state will go on in much the same way in either case,—but that under the present scheme of representation and under the present conditions of quietude abroad, the English people seem to have lost all instinct of government whatever. In this respect the old Greeks were really in advance of our twentieth century agitators, inasmuch as they had learnt the lesson that successful representation did not lie in the multiplication of voters. It was, indeed, a well understood maxim, and one not seldom acted upon, that if a tyrant desired to obtain unhampered control of a city his course was invariably to make the constituency as numerous as possible; this he did by professing to be an extreme democrat, and pandering to the wishes of the proletariat. The men of thought and sense amongst the community, seeing that in any contest they would be submerged by the multitude of votes, and that individual opinion was bound to be swamped in any case, as a rule refrained from the polls; and the tyrant was elected as chief magistrate. Before the first burst of enthusiasm which had brought him in at the head of the poll had become exhausted, it was easy to persuade the proletariat that democracy was in danger from the secret designs of their enemies, and procure the restriction of the votes to a favoured few in the confidence of the would-be tyrant. The rest followed as a matter of course, and the too easily gulled constituency found itself, though the constitution was still to all outward appearance democratic, really at

the mercy of its late suppliant, who seldom failed to rule it with a rod of iron.

We have seen how in the United States it has required a powerful effort on the part of the well-wishers to the constitution to preserve it from a similar catastrophe, and, though the outlook is momentarily clearer, a state of enervation like that that prevailed only a few years ago will not improbably become periodic. Even with all the supposed safeguards of universal suffrage, the States owe to the energetic action of one man, their President, their present exemption from the evils of *laissez faire*, and an enemy to the Constitution, backed up by the arts of the disguised tyrant, might readily place the whole fabric in danger of dissolution.

Now experience has commenced to show that already the British constituencies are growing limp under the action of the process of "watering" which has been going on, and that the individual power of the voter has been reduced to such insignificance, that he has almost, if not quite, lost all sense of personal responsibility. A more dangerous position for the wellbeing of the state could not be conceived. Now, if the admission of women to the polls were in every other respect most desirable, and useful for the state, this one objection of the weakening of the constituency would be sufficient to condemn it in the eyes of practical men. There is here no question of competency, nor of inequality between the sexes; the influence of woman herself would be practically curtailed by the measure, inasmuch as she would gain the right at the expense of a still further dilution of the individual power of the elector. Probably the most effectual way of getting at the real wishes of a constituency would be to select the individual voters by lot out of the entire community. If, say, an overwatered constituency of 20,000 could be concentrated to 1,000, or 500, the opinions of the whole would find clearer utterance than in the present system where the weak solution is apt to be turned up by any chance wind that may blow over it. In such a case woman's suffrages would be not only efficient, but actually beneficial. In other assemblies where women have taken part, common experience proves them to be, in the nature of the case, as competent as their husbands or brothers, and could we only procure a representative body of women their advent at the polls would be hailed by the most irreconcilable of old time Tories. With such a "concentrated essence" of a constituency we might fairly presume that every individual voter would rise to a truer conception of his own responsibility, and that the House of Commons would be far more representative of public feeling than it can at present claim to be. It needs no abstruse array of facts and arguments to prove that in the present overgrown constituencies, the appeal to reason must ever give way to the dictates of prejudice; and that this is practically acknowledged is shown in the way in which every application to the country is carefully disguised under specious cries intended, not to appeal to the reason, but to tickle the sensibilities. Neither party can plead not guilty of using such specious appeals. Nor is it to be denied that the House of Commons itself has outgrown the limits of number when important topics, especially when they involve affairs that concern the susceptibilities of the nation at large, cannot be dispassionately or profitably discussed. Unfortunately the millennium has not as yet arrived, so, of course, we must content ourselves in making the best of present conditions. This does not, however, imply

that we should in our haste rush on to greater difficulties. A practical method of condensing our present constituencies so as to render them more representative of the nation at large, it is true, has yet to be found; but this should render us all the more careful not to clog the present machine with still more adherent foreign matter than at present clings to it. No one could consistently claim that the "Mrs. JELLABYS" of the present, who neglect their families, and permit their children to grow up untrained and useless members of society, in their zeal for whitewashing little niggers on the banks of the Niger, are fair representatives of the womanhood of the country. The ladies who inaugurate unfeminine struggles with the police, which would disgrace their sisters of the gutter, can scarcely be looked upon as fair specimens of the women of the land, yet it is our Misses PANKHURST and their fellow workers who claim to be their representatives, and who, as the loudest tongued amongst the others, would scramble to the polls. Such a denouement would altogether destroy the basis of representative government, and be indeed a contradiction in terms. The women of the country have not authorized such abnormal specimens of their sex to pose as their representatives, and would be the last to give them their suffrages. Unfortunately their disinclination to be confounded with them would lead them to adopt the usual feminine method of expressing their lack of sympathy by refraining altogether from the polls. This occurs to us as being really the one practical objection against woman suffrage as at present possible. It may be that the millennium is already on the way, but it has not as yet shown any immediate symptom of its early arrival. Under all the circumstances it would be better to wait for it, than to intrust the suffrage to such ineligible and inappropriate representatives of our mothers, sisters, wives, and daughters.

THE KAISER'S OPTIMISM

(Daily Press, 27th December.)

That is a very noteworthy conversation by His Majesty WILLIAM II of Germany, a condensed translation of which from the *Münchener neueste Nachrichten* we give elsewhere. It is interesting as coming from one of the most interesting monarchs in modern history; but we regard it also as a useful New Year message from a man of undoubted ability, a man who (let his critics say what they like) takes his seriously as becomes his responsible position. There is a lack of sympathy about modern journalism for which newspapermen are not exclusively to blame, and we are not surprised to find many papers dwelling on features of the Imperial observations which can obviously be taken less worthily in isolation than they should in relation to their context. It is easy to suggest that a man who can be goaded to complain of his critics has not the strength of character conventionally desiderated, if we forget that the strongest harness has its joints, and that the greatest hero cannot be expected to be superhuman. In this instance the KAISER has not copied MARIE CORELLI; he has not merely eased his human heart by girding at those who misunderstand him. He seems to have spoken for more than himself; and if the world will only ponder the points raised, he will not have spoken altogether in vain. Without being able to approve altogether of extreme optimism, we can envy his Majesty his faith. He is too able an intellect to be wholly sincere in declaring himself "an out and out optimist,"

and without the laudable motives inspiring his latest lay sermon, would probably acknowledge the folly which makes men label themselves one or the other. It may be expedient and practical for men to be whole-hoggers in politics, to be out and out Radicals or out and out Tories, but it is certainly unwise and unnecessary for them to profess optimism or pessimism, and antitheses germane or analogous. Life is a mixture of complementary opposites, and the true philosopher emulates the boy at the picnic, who was asked whether he would take pickles or jam, and answered "a little of both, please". In the homely phraseology of the least available philosopher we know, there is a time to laugh and a time to cry; a time to be optimistic and a time to be pessimistic; a time to be happy, and a time to be sad; and whichever time we may like less, we must not overlook its function, which is like that of the discord deliberately inserted in certain harmonies. Drab is dreary, but all purple would soon have an equally fatal monotony. The KAISER, however, has hit upon the time when more optimism seems greatly needed. For his advocacy of optimism is at bottom merely a timely plea for a revival of faith in effort, and Germany has no monopoly of that form of slackness at the plough-handles for which they have, in their so convenient language, coined the word "reichsverdrossenheit". What is the good of disgust, in effect asks the Kaiser; better work and look ahead. Quite so. It is very human and painfully easy for a worker to feel discouraged, disgusted, weary; even the KAISER's optimism could not save him from the pangs that are obvious in this latest outcry; but who can refuse to admire the courage with which he utters his *retort* to the subtle devil of *reichsverdrossenheit*? What really saves him, more than courage—for courage is one of those things, like mislaid paper cutters or can-openers, that are not always at command when wanted—is his sense of humour. His un-friends have dubbed him the *reise-Kaiser*, the "globe-trotting monarch", and he quite enjoys the joke. His only regret is that he cannot do more to deserve the nickname. The queer morsels of philosophy that have enshrined themselves in the British vernacular have had what we believe to be a recent addition to their number. "All the same a hundred years hence", chirrup the sort of person who giggles at "open confession is good for the soul"—"it will be all the same a hundred years hence; we shall be a long time dead". That is harmless when used as a subsidiary coin of the currency of resignation; but decidedly mischievous if recalled at the front of effort. There is not a single thing for human doing or attempting of which the pessimist cannot demand "what's the good?" so that poor human nature has to fight against discouragement both before and during the race. Our world needs such reminders as the German Emperor has just given; and as it is fond of beginning each new year with a watchword, we do not think it amiss to recommend the KAISER's contribution—let us all, in or out of this Colony, "work and look ahead".

M. and Mme. Portier, the two most able amateur Thespians at Shanghai, have gone Home, both having been seriously ill, but both now happily convalescent. M. Portier consularly represented France and latterly Portugal also at the Settlement. The English French and German A.D.C.'s made presentations to them at a public meeting. The departure of M. and Mme. Portier must cause a gap in Shanghai Society which will take long to fill.

THE SHIPPING COMMISSION.

(Daily Press, 28th December.)

Those who study the list of the names of the members of the Royal Commission which has been appointed to investigate the complicated subject of shipping "rings", as it appears elsewhere in this issue, will admit to begin with that it is fairly strong and representative. It needs to be so, for the involved nature of the enquiry these gentlemen have to make becomes at once apparent when we come to reckon up the wide and varied interest that will come under their purview. To the disinterested reader the composition of the Commission will seem fairly balanced, the shipping interests concerned having efficient representatives in Lord Inverclyde, of the Cunard Line, Mr. PHILLIPS, of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, and others, also well known to the shipping world, traders including Sir HUGH BELL and Sir WILLIAM LEWIS, and the inevitable official element. But even assuming there be room for some discontent on one or other of those heads, we take it for granted that the Chairman nominated will be welcomed by all concerned. Mr. ARTHUR COHEN is a King's Counsel and Judge of the Cinque Ports, and his judgment ought to be mature, in view of his years and experience. Born seventy-six years ago, and standing Counsel for Cambridge University for the last twenty-eight years, Mr. COHEN has had great opportunities of acquiring the peculiar fitness with which he is credited. He was one of the Counsel engaged in the Alabama Arbitration, a member of the Royal Commission for Unseaworthy Ships and of the Royal Commission on Trade Unions, and has figured at the Hague international court of Arbitration. Judicial impartiality and competent opinion may therefore be confidently counted on so far as the Chairman's share in this awkward enquiry goes. We say awkward, because the matter bristles with opposing points of view, and in every case the issues and interests are large. British trade and colonial trade are affected, and trade of course means both shipping and shippers, cargo-carriers and consignors and consignees. The practice of giving rebates to special classes of customer is not the only serious matter for debate. Though so far the agitation has originated in other colonies and in other parts of the world, Hongkong and the Far East generally are keenly interested, and will look forward to possible results very anxiously. We have already suggested where the real difficulty lies, in the multiplicity of points of view. The *Times* fancies the greatest difficulty will be to come at an agreement on material facts, but the Commission would have a comparatively easy task of it were its duty merely to decide which it believes, certain statements or certain contradictions. The real trouble is that two or more conflicting sides may be simultaneously in the right. The man in the street nowadays readily condemns all "trusts" from the first mention of the word, and certainly the ruthless operations of mighty organizations have done much to make the world cling to the old-fashioned ways of fair competition. Every now and again we hear murmurs from patriotic alarmists that the British mercantile flag is losing the pre-eminence it once enjoyed; a combine of British shipping could conceivably soon settle that fear. But then immediately there would be a cry that British trade was being choked by high rates, and the shipping people would retort that they could not be expected to keep the

Union Jack showing everywhere at a loss to themselves. The patriot looks impartially on the despatcher and on the carrier of cargo as complementary to his nation's trade, without thinking how the question of low or high rates affects either separately. The newly appointed commissioners have to look to the parts and to the whole, and to bring that dispassionateness to the finding of a compromise that cannot reasonably be expected from the separate interests involved. The *Times*, like ourselves, does not envy them their task, nor does it pretend to be able to help with any suggestion. It concludes that "if they [the Commission] can suggest, for example, methods by which freights to and from our Colonies and our chief markets can be lowered or steadied—their report would be invaluable. . . . It will do good to look closely into these matters and others of a like nature. An inquiry has been long demanded, and, for reasons which are not apparent, has year after year been postponed. It is satisfactory to know that there is every likelihood that the issues in dispute, which are of national magnitude, will be impartially examined".

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on December 27th at the Board Room. The Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (president) presided, and there were also present Lieut.-Colonel J. M. Reid, R.A.M.C., Dr. F. Clark, Medical Officer of Health, Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin, Registrar General, Dr. H. McFarlane, Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Mr. H. Humphreys, Mr. Lau Chu-pak, Mr. Fung Wa-chun and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (secretary).

LAW OFFICERS' OPINION.

In reply to a letter from the Board asking whether the written opinion of Law Officers of the Crown can be submitted to a confidential meeting, the Colonial Secretary wrote:—"I am directed to inform you that members of the Sanitary Board may be allowed to see the opinions of the Law Officers bearing on points with which it is the duty of the Board to deal on the distinct understanding that members of the Board must regard any such opinion communicated to them in their public capacity as strictly confidential."

Mr. HOOPER—I don't think it is a matter for discussion; but, before it passes, I just wish to enter my protest against it without stating any special reasons because I think they will reach the Government from another source. I don't see what authority the Government have to make anything confidential that takes place at this Board, having rules for our guidance. I am not going to discuss it.

The reply was laid on the table.

MR. HUMPHREYS AND THE BACTERIOLOGIST.

A minute by the bacteriologist, Dr. Hunter, with reference to the well in Stanley Street which has occasioned considerable discussion, was read: It is now generally recognised by experts on water analysis that bacteriology is the most direct and delicate test of the safety of a water for drinking purposes. By it we obtain exact information not alone as to the constitution of a water but as to its potentiality to cause disease. Bacteriological methods are more delicate than chemical examination. Klein, Houston, and others have shown that by bacteriological methods, it is possible to detect smaller degrees of sewage pollution than by chemistry. With "A" of the minute (Mr. Humphreys) I agree entirely. I have never condemned a water because it contained *acillus coli communis*. I am thoroughly justified however in regarding any water as suspicious which contains the *bacillus coli communis* in 1 c.c. or any such small quantity. With that part of the minute marked "B" I disagree. Here again, I regard a sample of water as suspicious if it contains a large number of bacteria per c.c. of whatever kind, and especially so if the number of species represented was large. With "C" I am in entire agreement yet the higher the number of *bacillus coli* in any sample of water the heavier will have

been the recent sewage or other pollution and the greater the probability of the presence of disease-producing bacteria. The question raised at "D" is still a matter of considerable scientific dispute. Our information upon this point, e.g., bacteria necessary for digestion, has, I think, advanced somewhat since the days of Pasteur. It would be well for the author of the minute to carefully consider the more recent investigations of Nuttall and Thierfelder, Levin, Scholtz and Bizzozero. Polar bears in the arctic regions possess a sterile intestinal canal, yet they appear to thrive well with "E." No bacteriologist of any repute would conclude as to the presence of *bacillus coli* before having carried out the main crucial system of tests. With "F" I agree. The authority for the statement at "G" ought to be given. This is my experience in Hongkong, and is borne out by other competent observers as Dewar and Crookes (chemists) and Klein, Houston, etc. (bacteriologists). With regard to "H," if the water is boiled ordinary bacteria are killed. I am acquainted with micro organisms which can withstand boiling for 16 hours. My own opinion in regard to the whole question of water examinations is the following: A water irrespective of source must be condemned if it contains a very large number of bacteria per c.c. of whatever kind; if it contains *bacillus coli* in 1 c.c. if it ferments glucose, lactose, etc., if it gives the enteritis change in milk. The presence of liquefying organisms is also of great importance. I rely upon no single test, reaction or phenomenon, and place but little weight upon the mere quantitative estimation of the micro organisms in any sample of water. The samples of well water which I have examined recently were so impure as to answer to the very condemnatory test, necessary from a bacteriological standpoint. In the case of a water supply however the condition of affairs is somewhat different. Here all the findings of bacteriology, chemistry, and topography must be considered before it is condemned. I am in agreement, however, with the statement by the Fourth Report of the Royal Commission on Water Supplies and Sewage Disposal of 1904, that typical *bacillus coli* in 1 c.c. of a sample of water is sufficient to condemn it for potable purposes, and an indication of sewage pollution. If the pollution be a recent one the presence of *bacillus coli* affords a much more delicate test of pollution than any chemical examination which can be made.

The PRESIDENT minuted that he agreed with Dr. Hunter's views.

In reply to Dr. Hunter Mr. H. Humphreys further minuted:—In the Government Bacteriologist's report on my minute of 10th December, 1906, he leaves unchallenged three of my most important statements, viz.:—Those having reference to: (1) The rulings of the English Courts. (2) Shallow wells in England being unable to pass a bacteriological test. (3) No evidence being hitherto forthcoming as to sickness from polluted well water in Hongkong. The members of the Board will probably agree; (1) that the rulings of the English Court where the evidence of the various experts is sifted to the bottom cannot be lightly disregarded; (2) that if no shallow well waters can pass a bacteriological test, the adoption of such a test for shallow wells here is equivalent to their foregoing universal condemnation and (3) that where no evidence of ill effects has been forthcoming such an heroic measure is unnecessary. Concerning another important statement in the minute the Government Bacteriologist asks that the authority be given for the following:—"That the *bacillus coli communis* is often found in water above suspicion of pollution and where chemical analysis shows it to be pure, its presence in such cases having no significance." My authority is Thresh, Lecturer on Public Health, London Hospital Medical College, etc., on page 147 of "Water and Water Supplies." In this connection I would further quote from the same authority "Shallow wells present the gravest difficulty. . . . In these cases I lay more stress upon the situation and construction of the well than upon the bacteriological results; and again, considering the fact that no illness had been attributed to the use of these (shallow well) waters and that the analytical results were so satisfactory, no magistrate would condemn any of the wells on the bacteriological

evidence." The reference to the statements in my minute which the Government Bacteriologist has marked "D" "E" and "F" requires no answer as there is practically no disagreement. As regards my statement which he has marked "H" both the typhoid and cholera bacilli are killed at 60°C with an exposure of ten minutes, so the fact of some micro organisms being able to withstand boiling for several hours is of little practical significance. With regard to "G" Klein does not regard the mere detection of the *bacillus coli communis* an absolute proof of contamination, but its presence in appreciable quantity is highly suggestive of sewage contamination, so also would be the presence of nitrates, nitrites, chlorides, and free ammonia, detected by chemical analysis; but there is this important difference, that in the case of a chemical analysis the impurities enumerated are just the same in the water standing in the well as in the water flowing into it, whereas in the bacteriological analysis the water from a well having but 7 colonies per C. C. in the water flowing into it may have 495,000 after standing 3 d.ys. If this latter number be used for deciding upon the potability of the waters, good water would be condemned, while if the water were pumped out as it ought to be the true sample would be satisfactory. It is clear therefore that for shallow wells a bacteriological analysis is untrustworthy and misleading, because the number and species of the bacteria in such wells are used as a basis for indicating the amount of sewage contamination whereas they may be nearly all the result of self multiplication. Frankland says that owing to the facilities afforded by growth on the sides of a well it is only by pumping out for sometime that a sample representing the bacterial condition of the water gaining access to the well is obtainable. "It is therefore imperative that in the examination of well water for micro organisms attention should be given as to whether the well has been recently pumped or disturbed, or unused for a longer or shorter period. Unless these circumstances are duly taken into consideration the most misleading and erroneous conclusions as to the bacteriological condition of the actual source of supply will be arrived at. It is needless to point out also that no well should be closed on a bacterioscopic report which indicates sewage contamination as result of the presence of the *bacillus coli communis* unless the chemical analysis corroborates it, for the reason that sewage contamination is readily detected by chemical analysis; but if the bacterioscopic report states that the bacilli of typhoid, cholera, or other malignant bacilli are present, the well should be closed at once irrespective of the chemical analysis which would fail to disclose the presence of such bacteria. It is however exceedingly rare that a water containing such malignant bacteria escapes on a chemical analysis, for the reason that they are almost invariably associated with considerable sewage contamination, which as already stated is readily detected by the presence of an abnormal amount of nitrates, nitrites, chlorides, and free ammonia."

Mr. HUMPHREYS said he would like to offer some remarks on Dr. Hunter's minute.

The PRESIDENT—Certainly.

Mr. HUMPHREYS, dealing with various points in Dr. Hunter's report, pointed out that it was the experience in England and elsewhere that bacteriological experts and analytical experts very seldom agreed, and when they came to think of it, it was not unreasonable. A bacteriological examination of a well in the morning might be totally different to a similar examination in the evening.

The PRESIDENT—Isn't that the same with analytical examinations?

Mr. HUMPHREYS—Not a bit of it.

The PRESIDENT—Before and after rainfall there would be a difference.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—In the case of rainfall there might, but not otherwise. Proceeding he said that Dr. Hunter endeavoured to belittle his (Mr. Humphreys') authorities. There could be no question that Professor Franklin was the greatest living expert on water bacteriology, and Dr. Thresh, lecturer on Public Health, at London Hospital. He had every respect for Dr. Hunter's opinion, but when that opinion conflicted directly with that of those two experts he might be pardoned if he declined to accept

it. Dr. Hunter made a point that insidious disease might occur through drinking water full of bacteria harmless in themselves, but the same argument would apply to the air we breathed. The air was laden with dust which was full of disease germs. They were going to prevent the people in Hongkong from breathing because of the germs of *bacillus coli* in the air they would be placed in an absurd position. Dr. Hunter referred to a remark made by the speaker at a previous meeting of the Board about bacteriology being one thing and chemical analysis another, the inference being that he (the speaker) had changed his views. He had not done anything of the kind. Undoubtedly they were different things. As he admitted in his minute, bacteriology was useful in finding out germs in water which could not be discovered by Chemical analysis, but on the other hand chemical analysis readily detected poisons which bacteriology would never discover. It came to this, that if bacteriological examination stated that cholera germs were present, and the chemical analysis gave an opposite report as to potability of certain water he should give priority to the chemical analysis, because it was more certain. The other was more delicate but not so certain. With regard to "E," he stated that sewage was readily detected by chemical examination. Dr. Hunter said it was not. He would like to know where the doctor got his ideas from. Personally, he (Mr. Humphreys) as an indifferent analyst himself disagreed with him, and he thought that opinion would be supported by much greater experts than himself, Mr. Brown, Government Analyst, Mr. Taylor, of the Sugar Refinery, and other Analysts. Dr. Hunter had intended to convey that he had changed his views that if typhoid bacillus was present in the water or cholera bacillus, chemical analysis would not detect it. He still agreed with it, because before those things were associated with sewage they had to pass through some animal, generally man, before they got to the water. In conclusion he argued that the discovery of these bacilli would be assisted by chemical analysis.

The PRESIDENT, replying to Mr. Humphreys, said that if that gentleman agreed that bacteriological analysis was more delicate but not so certain as chemical analysis, surely it was as well to get that test in addition to chemical analysis. When both reports were submitted to the Board they should be guided by their judgment.

Mr. HUMPHREYS replied that when one said the well should remain open and the other said it must be closed, in that event unless the bacteriologist was prepared to state that bacillus of typhoid or cholera were actually present the well should not be closed.

The PRESIDENT added that both reports were submitted and the action of the Board was guided by the judgment of the majority.

Mr. HUMPHREYS agreed. They were in the position of judges at home.

MEMBERS' RIGHTS.

Concerning a number of applications for a modification of the requirements of section 175 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, the President suggested that as the matter was still *sub judice* they should adjourn consideration of these applications. A letter forwarded to the Board by an unofficial member was being considered by the Government.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—My letter was sent in ten or eleven days ago, and has not yet been circulated.

The PRESIDENT—No, it has been referred to the Government.

Mr. HOOPER—Under those circumstances I should like to know under whose authority a letter addressed to the Board has been referred to someone else.

The PRESIDENT—By my authority.

Mr. HOOPER—Then with all due respect to your authority I venture to say that you have no right whatever to suppress any information from members sent to them by the public for their information.

The PRESIDENT—No information has been suppressed or will be suppressed that has been communicated to the Board. It will be laid before them in due time.

Mr. HOOPER—The Government cannot intervene between you and the Board in any communications from the public, and I consider

it a great disrespect to this Board that a communication addressed to members eleven days ago has not been sent to them.

The PRESIDENT—Next business.

THE WELL IN STANLEY STREET.

The question of closing the well in the yard of No. 22 Stanley Street was again considered.

The PRESIDENT—On two occasions the Board decided that this well should be closed, and also on two occasions the owner of the property on which it stands has written in and asked the Board to reconsider its decision. Therefore the matter has been considered twice, and this is the third time. The question is whether the well shall be closed or not. I move that it be closed.

Mr. HOOPER—I should like to ask the Medical Officer whether there have been any cases of typhoid or cholera in that house.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—I couldn't say off hand.

Mr. HOOPER—I should also like to ask whether taking the population of Hongkong, speaking generally, the percentage of typhoid and cholera is not very small?

The PRESIDENT—It varies, of course, with different years. At any moment we may be exposed to an outbreak of cholera here, and the object we have in closing these wells is to safeguard the health of the colony. If a well of that sort got contaminated with cholera bacilli it would be a great source of danger. It is impossible when once a well is opened to prevent people carrying buckets of water away to neighbouring houses and to houses in streets far away from its vicinity.

Mr. HOOPER—I may say that up to about 18 years ago typhoid was practically unknown in this Colony, but malaria was very rife and then people had to depend very largely on well water; therefore such water has never been the cause of typhoid fever. With regard to cholera I was surprised to hear you say there had been hundreds of cases here.

The PRESIDENT—Hundreds in the outbreak of 1902.

Mr. HOOPER—I was fortunately absent during that year.

The REGISTRAR GENERAL—I beg to second your motion, Mr. President. After all we must place some confidence in our experts until they are shown unworthy of it, and Dr. Hunter, from his report, seems to take a cautious view, and not to be actuated by any wild theories. I must say with regard to questions of public health, that in the event of Dr. Hunter, our bacteriologist, being supported by the Medical Officer of Health, I have no difficulty in voting for anything of this kind recommended. I don't suppose Mr. Humphreys or Mr. Hooper wish to wait for the discovery of cholera bacillus in the well before closing it; that would be closing the door after the horse was stolen.

Mr. HOOPER—I move as an amendment that the well be allowed to remain open.

Mr. FUNG WA-CHUN—I beg to second that, because whenever I go out through the hot days I see hundreds of women and girls carrying water from nullahs, and in my opinion water like this, the quality of which is certified by the Analyst, is far better than that extracted from dirty nullahs on the hillsides.

Mr. HOOPER—In support of the amendment I have to say that with the conflicting evidence we have before us of the Government Analyst, in whom we have every confidence, as against that of the Government Bacteriologist, I don't think we are justified in closing this well, at any rate for the present.

The amendment was carried.

HUMOUR AND DIGNITY.

When the amendment was declared carried, the REGISTRAR GENERAL said he supposed it was open to the Medical Officer of Health to bring the matter up again at another meeting when Messrs. Hooper and Humphreys were not present, and to reverse the decision.

Mr. HOOPER—(hotly)—I object most strongly to the remarks of the Registrar-General. I think they are very undignified and unbecoming of an officer of the Government holding the high position of a seat on the Executive Council, and I ask you, Sir, to send a report of that remark he made, together with mine, to his Excellency the Governor, because it means that if such remarks are allowed to be made, then it is impossible for unofficials to attend at this Board.

The REGISTRAR GENERAL—I don't see anything disrespectful to Mr. Hooper in my remarks.

Mr. HOOPER—You mentioned two names—Mr. Humphreys and mine.

The REGISTRAR GENERAL—Then I will add Mr. Fung Wa-chun and Mr. Lau Chu-pak's.

The PRESIDENT—This discussion must cease. We have had quite enough on the subject.

Mr. HOOPER—Then I will ask you to send the remarks to the Governor.

The PRESIDENT—Will you kindly allow me to speak. I am in the chair, and call you to order. If you wish it to be sent to the Governor it shall be sent.

Mr. HOOPER—I do.

The PRESIDENT—I certainly think Mr. Brown did not mean it in a personal way in the least.

The REGISTRAR GENERAL—I don't think there is anything condemnatory in saying that Mr. Hooper will vote and maintain his position.

SCAVENGING IN RURAL DISTRICTS.

The Committee appointed to consider the question of enforcing the Scavenging and Conservancy Bye laws in Rural Districts reported that they were of opinion that it was not practicable in the Colony to prevent the use of excreta matters for manuring in strictly agricultural districts.

ERECTION OF CUBICLES.

A minute by Dr. Clark on the subject of the erection of cubicles with comments thereon by the President was circulated.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK minuted that the question of cubicles was an important one and should be dealt with by a select committee. It was very undesirable to make amendments after amendments to the Ordinance which would at a future date be found equally impracticable with those already added.

HOUSING OF VERMILION WORKMEN.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH furnished a minute relative to the housing of the workmen of the vermilion factory at No. 1 Kwong Fung Lane, wherein he said:—I recommend that the Board should ask the owner to set apart a portion of the building exclusively for the housing of his workmen and not allow them to sleep in the workshop. The dwelling portion should have a separate entrance and should contain the kitchens so that food should not be cooked in the workshops. This can easily be done as the workshop is a large rambling place which can easily have a dwelling place divided off. The processes carried out in the factory are (1), heating of metallic mercury with sulphur to form sulphide of mercury; (2), crushing, washing and drying this sulphide of mercury and its packing in small paper packets for sale.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK minuted—Has any case of poisoning taken place in such shops? The trade may not be so dangerous as suggested.

The REGISTRAR GENERAL—Is this a really dangerous trade, or only legally dangerous?

The PRESIDENT—This is classified as a dangerous trade at home, and I strongly approve of the Medical Officer of Health's recommendations.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—In reply to the Registrar General I may say that the manager tells me that trade is not very brisk just now, and therefore he has only from twenty to thirty men at work. None of these show signs of being ill, and one man tells me he has worked there for 39 years. This, however, does not alter the fact that working with metallic mercury gradually undermines a man's health and that it is not at all a proper proceeding for him to eat his meals and sleep in the workshop. It is impossible to get reliable information as to whether men leave after a year or two on account of ill health. There would be no great difficulty in setting apart a portion of this big place for dwelling purposes only, and that is all I have suggested. The Factory and Workshops Act at home recognises lead, phosphorus, mercury and arsenic as the principal poisonous metals found in workshops.

The Board decided that employees were to be housed apart from the works.

H. E. the Officer Administering the Government has been pleased to appoint Mr. A. G. M. Fletcher to be his private secretary.

ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

His Honour the Chief Justice presided at the prize distribution at St. Joseph's College on December 22nd. He was supported on the right by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Pozzoni, while on his left was Bro. Sylvester, director of the College. Mr. E. A. Irvine, inspector of schools, was also present, likewise Mr. A. G. Romano, Consul for Portugal, many priests and brothers, and a large concourse of parents and friends of the pupils.

Proceedings opened with a pleasant little musical programme, in which, besides songs and recitations, there were displays of sword exercise and rifle drill. Needless to say the performers acquitted themselves well, and were warmly applauded by those present.

The Rev. Brother Sylvester, in his annual report, said:—In reviewing the work of the school for the year 1906 we have reason to be satisfied with the results obtained. We have made a complete change in the three lowest standards. At present the Chinese and the non-Chinese are entirely separated in the first, second and third standards. This was done in view of the transfer of the Cathedral School to St. Joseph's College, and also of giving more care to the Chinese and non-Chinese respectively. This arrangement promises to give good results. The attendance is much better than it was in previous years, nevertheless there is much room for improvement still. My last year's remarks respecting the nonsensical birthday absences bore good fruit in many cases; I must, however, say that some boys were again absent on that chimerical account. The following figures will speak of the regularity of the boys of the College. We had 217½ school days in the year. 23 boys put up the full number. The average attendance of 100 of the most regular boys was 214½ days. The conduct of the boys is very good at present. All undesirables are scrupulously discarded. The special subjects taught in the school are doing very well. Between twenty and thirty boys follow a regular and systematic typewriting training. Thanks to the generosity of His Lordship the Bishop and the Rev. Bro. Gabriel, a visitor, we have been able to procure four additional typewriters during the year. Our shorthand class is doing admirably well. We presented twelve boys for Sir Isaac Pitman's third class certificate, and I am glad to be able to say all succeeded in satisfying the Examiners. Later, five were presented for the third class and nine for the second class certificate. Of these the five presented for the third and seven out of the nine presented for the second obtained certificates. An attempt was made to get up an interesting and instructive library for the higher standards, and at present we have a pretty collection of good and instructive reading for the boys. We shall be thankful to all who may contribute to its enlargement. The results of the Oxford examinations were most satisfactory. The one boy presented for the senior came out in the honours list, four boys passed in the junior division, and eleven in the preliminary. We remarked that many of our boys secured the note "Good" which speaks highly of the excellence of the work presented by them. The Hygiene Competition was also a success for St. Joseph's College. Master John Ezra came out first boy, and thus secured the \$1.00 scholarship so graciously offered by H.E. the Governor. The boys presented for the Shield Competition came out second notwithstanding the low average age of the team, and the short time they had studied the subject. This year owing to special reasons, we did not present any competitors for the shield. I have to thank many of the parents for the very great interest they take in the weekly report and the monthly examinations of their sons; these latter will certainly reap abundant fruits from this parental vigilance. Our boys continue to take a keen interest in the inter-school sports, but they will always be handicapped so long as they are limited to such a scanty playground. They also take much interest in drill, which has been given regularly since the commencement of the scholastic year. Special attention was given to the remarks of the Inspector of Schools in last year's report, and we have reason to believe that we have

corrected all the weak points, as may be inferred from this year's report. In conclusion, he thanked the Catholic Union for offering a scholarship of \$25 to the best behaved boy in the Orphanage for last year. He also thanked Messrs. A. G. Romano, Consul-General for Portugal, J. Machado, W. Danby, G. de Champeaux, C. E. Warren, J. J. Leiria, Ho Tung, Gonzalez, Consul for Chili, Brewer & Co., Shing Kee, and Mrs. T. V. Ribeiro for contributions to the prize fund.

SIR FRANCIS PIGOTT was then called on to distribute the prizes. Before doing so he said:—My Lord Bishop, Reverend Brothers, Ladies and Gentlemen. At a time when the Old Country is rent with discussions on the subject of education, and when it seems that the dispute would upset the very constitution, when you would imagine from the language used by both sides on the discussion that England was hitherto one of the most uneducated countries and her people the most illiterate, it is comforting to turn to this Colony to see the peaceful methods for the great cause of education as pursued here. It is pursued, I think, on very old fashioned lines; for both divisions of the great religion, pursue it according to their own views and tenets, but by adopting common standards of references and common tastes they put education first and the instilling of their religious views second. I am not here discussing religious views at all, but merely to take this opportunity of thanking this branch of the Christian Religion for the share they are taking in the cause of education in this Colony. If the reports furnished to the Governor speak true, as I am sure they do, the teaching has fulfilled the required standard, and must be judged by results to be successful, and putting even Mr. Irvine's accurate and impartial results on one side, and looking at a larger field of education than the one this Colony can furnish, I think I am justified in saying that after all, old methods are the best. For if we look at results and place ourselves face to face with ourselves, I think whatever path of life we have followed or are following, whether it be law making or law interpreting, whether in Government departments or in a merchant's office, whether in the cause of education itself, I think we are justified in saying that we are not failures. We are satisfied we have done our best; we are satisfied with the education given us and are worthy to fulfil the post assigned to us now. More especially is that so with those reverend brothers who are undertaking the cause of education of youth. Although it is the first time I have met you, brothers, in this Colony, I know you in your corporate capacity, and have met you before in the work carried out by your branch in Mauritius. Friar Jo-ao, the brother director in Mauritius, is as popular and highly esteemed as Brother Sylvester is in Hongkong (applause). I say, reverend brothers, the Colony owes you a debt of gratitude because you have undertaken so much; because you have effected so much and are eager to effect so much more; because, although your work is purely voluntary you have accepted with great good grace and in the best spirit possible the official criticism that has been made upon you, setting therein the best example to your scholars, and eager to get a better report next year. I think I should say something more than this: you are part only of a great brotherhood a great brotherhood that has devoted itself to the cause of teaching, and wherever education is in need of help in the British Dominions or in the world, there you are ready to give your help voluntarily. I think the world owes you a debt of gratitude, not in this Colony only but everywhere in the British Empire where you have fulfilled what you have undertaken. Let me now pass to the report. I understand the education here is what is called secondary education; that is to say, that after the primary education, you undertake to fit boys for the professions they are going to take in after life. I shall not take in detail the report, but there are one or two things I should notice because they were noticed by his Excellency in his speech last year. He drew attention in the first place to the study of hygiene, and I am sure he will be pleased to find such progress made in that most important subject. He also criticised the introduction of shorthand, typewriting and bookkeeping, and I am sure he

will be pleased to see that his criticism has borne good fruit as the report deals specially with those subjects. If I may say so, and I am sure his Excellency would agree with me, the subjects of shorthand and typewriting are two of the most useful accomplishments which a boy going into the business of the world could possibly possess. I myself have recently acquired the art of typewriting, and I derive the greatest benefit and saving of time from being able to do it. There is one criticism which not his Excellency only, but Brother Sylvester has also referred to—that is absence and unpunctuality. The report made last year shows that there is an improvement, and still room for improvement. If you knew how important it is to be punctual you would keep strictly to the rules of the school, and avoid, whatever the temptation may be, staying at home on an uncle or an aunt's birthday. I remember I myself was criticised by one of the gentlemen taking a seat at the reporters' table for taking my seat on the bench a quarter of an hour late. The criticism was justified, but I could not help being late, as I was engaged in chambers doing other work. For everybody concerned it is of the utmost importance that you should be punctual in your undertakings, and the old story about punctuality being the thief of time is not true. I should like to assist, if I possibly could, in reporting to H.E. the Officer Administering the Government, the great need this school has for a suitable playground. Physical exercise and drill come a close second to mental knowledge, and if I can do anything in the way of assisting the boys to get a playground in my humble way, I shall certainly do so. A large school like this should have a large playground so that the scholars can enjoy themselves during the sunny hours after work (applause). And now I will say what I should have said at first, as I am now going to take the place of his Excellency. Everybody misses, and none more than myself, his presence here to-day. But you will be pleased to hear that he has made slight progress since his absence, and I am sure I am only expressing the wish of all present when I say we hope he may soon come back to the Colony restored to perfect health (applause).

His Honour then distributed the long list of prizes.

CHRISTMAS IN HONGKONG.

Christmas passed off quietly in Hongkong. There was a complete cessation of business and the weather being seasonable—cold and bracing—the pleasures of the day were not entirely confined to indoor enjoyments. The usual midnight services were held in the R.C. Churches, and were largely attended, the most numerous congregation being of course in the Cathedral where Bishop Pozzoni officiated. His Lordship also celebrated High Mass on Christmas morning. In St. John's Cathedral the Christmas Day services, conducted by the Rev. F. T. Johnson, attracted large congregations. The entertainment of the young was emphasized and in other respects the great festival was marked with the customary rejoicings. At the Sailors' Home, Seamen's Institute, Soldiers and Sailors' Home, and similar institutions the occasion was not allowed to pass without appropriate recognition and at the Government Civil Hospital the patients were brightened on Christmas night by a most enjoyable concert, in which H.E. the Officer Administering the Government took a most successful part. While the streets were by no means deserted, it was evident that most people did not care to go far afield on Tuesday. At Happy Valley there were a fair number engaged in the sport of some kind, the only novelty being provided by the naval yard sports. Yesterday, however, the place was a regular Mecca, and crowds assembled to see the various games in progress, the bright sunshine encouraging a large attendance.

SAILORS AND SOLDIERS' HOME.

A tea and variety entertainment, arranged by the Hongkong Temperance Union, were given at the Sailors and Soldiers' Home last night. There were about 150 present in the large hall, which had been tastefully decorated for the occasion by Mr. Matthews, assisted by bluejackets and a very pleasant time was spent by all. Songs were sung by English and Chinese children, glees were rendered by the

choir, instrumental selections were played, and performances on musical dumbbells were given. The Rev. C. Bone, superintendent presided and was supported by Mrs. Brown, the president. An excellent tea was provided by the matron, Mrs. Jacobs.

AT THE NAVALYARD.

There was no end of pleasure for Navalyard employees on Tuesday. The forenoon of that day was devoted to sport, the annual football match, married v. single, taking place at Happy Valley and ending in a win for the latter team. Then races and tugs-of-war were indulged in until it was time to return for Christmas dinner. At this, Inspector Lawrence presided over a large muster and a jolly hour was spent. In the evening a dance was held in the mess room which was prettily decorated for the occasion. An attractive feature in the decorations was the large shield of medals on either side of which was a circle of daggers. The medals included the South African, the Somali, the Indian frontier and the China and belonged to members of the Dockyard police who had seen service in the places mentioned. A large number attended the dance, and all were well cared for by Inspector Lawrence and a number of the police, whose efforts were responsible for the success of the evening.

ST. PETER'S SEAMEN'S CHURCH.

The annual sports in connection with this church were held at Stonecutters on Christmas day, the same success attending them as in former years. Several launches carried the holiday makers to Stonecutters where the afternoon was happily spent amid pleasant surroundings. When a long sports programme had concluded, the party returned to the Institute at Kowloon where dinner was provided. Then the event of the evening was the unloading of the Christmas "brig", out of which every man got a present. Proceedings were enlivened by the contribution of songs and recitations.

CONCERT AT CIVIL HOSPITAL.

Hospital patients were not forgotten in the season of peace and goodwill, and all thoroughly enjoyed themselves at the concert held in No. 11 ward on Tuesday afternoon. The ward was tastefully decorated by the nurses and a number of patients, and the merits of the concert can be judged by reference to the programme appended which includes prominent names in the local musical world.

His Excellency, Hon. Mr. F. H. May, amused the audience with his Irish anecdotes and the humorous songs of Mr. Cobden caused much merriment. The programme was as follows:—Pianoforte Solo 'Valse Ballet' (Chaminade). Mr. G. Grimbly; Song 'Gleaner's Slumber Song' (Walthew). Mrs. Badeley; Song 'The Bandolero' (Leslie Stuart). Mr. G. Balloch; Recitation 'The Heart's Charity' (Eliza Cook). Miss Blair; Song 'The Widow Malone' (J. Russell). His Excellency, Hon. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G.; Humorous Song, Mr. A. S. Cobden; Pianoforte Solo 'Berceuse' (Anon). (This was composed by a lad of 11). Mr. G. Grimbly; Recitation 'Irish Anecdotes' (Anon). His Excellency, Hon. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G.; Song 'I know a lovely garden' (G. D'Hardelet). Mrs. Badeley; Song 'Three for Jack' (Squire). Mr. G. Balloch; Song 'Peace and Rest' (Batten). Mrs. Newborn; Humorous Recitation; Mr. A. S. Cobden; Xmas Carol 'The First Nowell'.

POLICE BALL.

The committee whose efforts culminated in the successful dance held at No. 7 Police Station on Dec. 26th, from the congratulations of many in attendance had the satisfaction of knowing that their labours had not been in vain. With that forethought which characterises the police, everything necessary to insure the success of the evening was anticipated, and with the pervading spirit of goodwill which prevailed the dance was bound to be a success. The sombre appearance of the station was entirely transformed, and under the bright light of arc lamps, mellowed by that of numerous Japanese lanterns, the surroundings looked very imposing. The ball room was prettily draped with flags, the usual placards "If you want to know the time ask a policeman," etc.

which were hung round the walls attracting the eye. Messrs. Ritchie and Grant acted as M's C. and fulfilled their onerous duties to the satisfaction of all concerned, while those to whom dancing did not appeal were conveyed to the adjoining rooms by members of the committee who saw their wants supplied. Those associated with the work which brought the ball to a successful conclusion were Messrs. Baker, Gordon, Grant, R. Macdonald, Parr, Brasil, Kendall, Davitt, Lee, McLennan, Brennan, Watt and Ogg.

Dancing started about nine o'clock and was continued until an early hour in the morning. The programme included four waltzes, two polkas, three sets of quadrilles, two sets lancers, three barn dances, two Circassian circles, Caledonians, German schottische, Highland Reel, De Alberts, Highland schottische and Sir Roger de Coverley. Music was supplied by the Calcutta String Band.

ANOTHER HIGHWAY ROBBERY AT KOWLOON.

An old hawker who had sold his wares at Shamshuipo on Dec. 22nd, realising a little over \$8 thereon, was returning to the village of Yuen Leung on the same night when he was "held up" and robbed by four Chinese. When he had traversed half the distance between Shamshuipo and Chinwan, and was ascending a steep incline, four men sprang from a ravine and belaboured him with bamboo poles. Then when he appealed for mercy they bound his hands, after which they relieved him of the waist belt containing his money and left him, proceeding in the direction of Shamshuipo. As soon as he recovered himself the hawker followed them, and when near the village of Kopakan raised the cry of "Save life," which brought out the villagers. As soon as they realised what had happened the good people mustered in force and pursued the robbers, some of them being armed with rifles and revolvers. Shots were sent after the runaways, but none hit, and only one of the four thieves was captured. He was charged before Mr. C. D. Melbourne at the Police Court yesterday and remanded.

KULANGSU (AMOY) MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at the Board Room, on the 4th December, 1906.

Present:—Messrs W. H. Wallace (Vice-chairman), C. A. V. Bowra, A. F. Gardiner, L. I. Thomas, the Health Officer and the Secretary.

1. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

2. The Secretary is instructed to call for tenders for the removal of night soil 1907.

3. A despatch is read from the Senior Consul concerning the registering of land recently acquired by the Council, and it is decided to ask the Senior Consul to furnish the Council with a certificate as he suggests.

4. The Secretary reports the heavy loss to the ratepayers arising through the number of assessments and licenses being paid in notes and small coins, and he is instructed to issue a notice that on and after the 1st of January, 1907, all assessments and licenses of \$2.00 and over are to be paid in the large dollar, otherwise discount at Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp'n. rates will be charged.

5. The Superintendent of Police reports the following cases have been dealt with at the Mixed Court since the last meeting:—

SUMMOSES.

Breach of Municipal Regulations. 5. Being concerned in an abduction. 1. Refusing to quit premises. 1. Assault. 1.

SUMMARY ARRESTS.

Being in possession of stolen property. 1. Theft. 1. Committing a nuisance. 2. Contempt of Court. 1. Assault. 1.

(Signed) F. B. MARSHALL,
Chairman K.M.C.

By order,

C. BERKELEY MITCHELL,
Secretary K. M. C.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, December 24th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

A DISPUTED CONTRACT.

Mr. Hursthouse from the Crown Solicitor's Office appeared for San Lee and Co. who claimed \$450 from Chun Hon Kai, a Chinese latrine keeper, for work done, money paid and materials supplied in connection with latrines at Victoria View, Kowloon, as per estimate. The Sanitary Board served 18 notices, all of which were admitted, requiring the work to be done in accordance with the notices. The defendant, who was owner of the property, went to the plaintiff and asked how much he would charge to do the work required by the Sanitary Board. He gave an estimate which was accepted and the work was done to the satisfaction of the Sanitary Board, the usual notice of completion having been received. The only question, said Mr. Hursthouse, was one of price which was agreed upon. Mr. Gardiner for the defendant contested the price.

After hearing parties, his Honour referred the case to the Registrar to assess the value of the work done.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT].

December 27th.

New years do not bring many changes to this ancient city, but we begin 1907 with the new Senado; and H.E. Pedro Coutinho, the new Governor is expected to leave Lisbon about the end of February.

No reply has been made yet to the merchants' petition against the compulsory sealing of their journals, ledgers, cash and stock books.

Mr. Brennan, the Commissioner of Customs at Lappa, has had his hands and face severely burned by the explosion of an acetylene lamp.

The postmaster here does not believe in Sunday work. Mails arriving on Sundays are deposited in a Chinese shop, and left till the Chinaman takes them to the post office next morning! This is admittedly unsafe, but instead of opening the post office on Sundays to receive the mails, I hear that our postmaster has asked the Hongkong post office not to forward any mail on Sundays!

GERMANY IN THE FAR EAST.

A German telegram in the N.-C. Daily News says:—

The German Budget for 1907 provides £6,000 for the erection of a new Consulate in Tsinanfu; £3,900 for a summer residence of the Peking Minister in Peitaih and £4,500 for enlarging the buildings of the Tokyo Embassy.

The Budget of the Colony of Kiaochoo contains the following figures:—

	1907 Marks.	against 1906 Marks.
The Colony's own revenue	1,500,000	798,000
Contribution of the treasury	11,700,000	13,600,000
Expenditure	13,200,000	14,398,000
Recurring	7,000,000	6,765,250
Extraordinary	6,200,000	7,575,000
Items:—		
Civil Administration		
Police	1,300,000	1,811,628
Military administration		
Travelling	3,300,000	3,206,925
Building of harbour	2,300,000	3,410,000
Building of houses	1,100,000	1,990,000
Building of roads, etc.	1,000,000	
Houses for workmen	50,000	—
Afforestation	80,000	80,000

HONGKONG FLOUR MILLS.

VISIT TO JUNK BAY.

Most people in the Colony have during the past year turned interested eyes towards the big structure at Junk Bay that has been rising in its height and now stands a completed building. The mill, which without doubt is one of the largest enterprises Hongkong has seen for some time, is admirably situated, and as it embodies the experience of milling concerns in all parts of the world, combined with the thoroughness and perfection of detail usually associated with Mr. A. H. Rennie, it will be readily understood that the Hongkong Flour Mills are a model of their kind. While the scheme owes its inception to the fertile brain and keen business acumen of that gentleman, he has also stamped his personality on the technical work of the undertaking. The design is his, and those who have been privileged to make an inspection of the buildings—as a party of local pressmen did yesterday—are able to appraise at its true value Mr. Rennie's triumph in its construction. There has been a practical supervision of every detail. The plant is up-to-date and with improvements introduced on even the most modern appliances it can be stated with some degree of certainty that there are no better equipped mills in the East.

As to the success or otherwise of the enterprise which it represents, it is not for us to say. Critics have advanced reasons for proving their assertions that it was doomed to failure within a short time, but with a man like Mr. Rennie at the head of affairs and plenty of support behind him there seems every prospect of the new concern meeting all competition and establishing itself as one of the most successful industries in this part of the world. Occupying a central position with regard to existing wheat centres, it is even more favourably situated when the possibilities of Manchuria are kept in view, and all things considered, the Hongkong Flour Milling Company need have little fear of the outcome of the gigantic project which has now been launched.

The transformation which has been wrought at Junk Bay within eighteen months is little short of marvellous. An extensive reclamation has been carried out, a series of buildings have been constructed, while a number of interesting works have been planned. And all this is the progeny of the creative genius of Mr. Rennie. An extensive breast wall runs along the front, protecting the premises from the ravages of the sea and affording facilities for the loading and unloading of vessels, though to guard against the appearance of the unwelcome rodents which infest most mills ships will discharge in mid-stream. A depth of 6 fathoms is found 100 yards out at low water so that there is little fear of the new enterprise suffering any handicap from shipping disabilities. It has already been indicated that there are no half measures about this scheme. The site of the various buildings embraces no less than 435 acres, while a sea front of two and a quarter miles has been secured, the whole being enclosed by a wall and fenced to keep out undesirable visitors. The buildings comprise the mill proper, which is divided into two sections, the cleaning house, and extensive godowns. An inspection of these is not without profit, because apart from learning something of the interesting processes of milling, there is much to admire in the design and construction of all. There is a solidity about everything that pleases, not merely because it is supposed to be a British attribute, but because it is an expression of the lasting nature of the business to be carried on here. Iron pillars add to the appearance of stability, iron trusses support the roof, and wherever possible this metal has been employed. Even iron doors have been placed there with a purpose. All of these, it should be added, are testimonials to the Kowloon and Whampoa Dock Company and the skill of their workers in iron. There is no need to detail the various processes through which the grain passes on its career to the finished product. From the receiver upwards through the elevators the wheat is taken to a separator whence it passes into the cleaning house, and after being washed and dried is

brushed after which it is dealt with by a number of most ingenious machines. Then, after being subjected to innumerable processes, it is ready for bagging. This work is carried out by a staff of women who live on the premises. Throughout the entire work the dominant note is cleanliness and thoroughness. Amid all the many contrivances which call for comment but which space forbids, the one which stands out conspicuous is the dust collector. Three of these are placed in each mill, but unlike those operated in similar concerns, the accumulations which come from these are discharged outside and not allowed to fall into the bran. So great is the confidence inspired by this procedure that the Japanese Government has placed a large contract with the Company for bran for feeding their horses and cattle. In addition to securing a most up-to-date plant and introducing labour saving appliances, Mr. Rennie has not overlooked the comfort and convenience of the employees. There is a splendid system of ventilation and lighting, and an admirable set of fire appliances. In the engine house are two engines of 350 horse power each for driving the two mills, besides a smaller one of 150 horse power, while the general equipment of machinery is consistent with the large amount of work which is expected to be carried out here. The godowns are much more than is usually comprehended by that term. The principal one, where the wheat is stored, is an immense lofty structure, well ventilated and well lighted. Air piped under the floors, keep the grain cool, while the roof is impervious to damp. In this manner an admirable place for storing the grain is secured. Bags upon bags filled with wheat are piled here, there being no less than 7,000 tons lying here at present, but the great dimensions of the place will be better understood when it is stated that as many as one million bushels can be stored in that godown. At present a portion has been partitioned off to provide a temporary office pending the construction of offices alongside. Behind this is an apartment devoted to printing and sewing. Good work is done by the printing press there, and not the least interesting part of the inspection was to note the names of the new brands of flour which the Company will put on the market. The sewing machines also tell their own tale. They are for the manufacture of the cotton bags. A feature of all flour mills is the oats and about 70 find a home here. Having just indicated a few of the features of the mills there are other details quite as interesting. Mention has already been made of the consideration shown to the staff, but the half has not been told. The staff are to be supplied with ice manufactured from refrigerators in the mill, quarters are provided for the women employed, the manager's house and police station are situated on the hill overlooking the mill, while the *S. P. Hitchcock*, the sailing vessel that grounded in the Typhoon, will make her appearance alongside as the *Maple Leaf* and provide accommodation for the European and Chinese staff. She will be held by stout wires so that the possibility of her being moved from her moorings will be very remote. In addition to the precautions against fire already noted, it is contemplated to throw a suspension bridge from the upper storeys to the hillside. This would afford a useful escape in time of fire. There is also a dispensary, where accidents will receive attention. Nothing is allowed to go to waste at Junk Bay. The most has been made of everything. The pigs, which are a usual adjunct of most mills, number 800 at present, and by means of a sixteen inch pipe their food is blown from the mill to the sty, 3,000 feet away. A reservoir, two and half miles off, supplies the water and as the pipes will discharge 1,100,000 gallons in 24 hours it is evident that there is ample for contingencies.

The mills will be started at once and everyone who has the interests of the Colony at heart or who likes to see commendable enterprise rewarded will doubtless wish the undertaking success. It ought to have more than ordinary interest to the Colony because should any contingency arise which would cut off communication between Hongkong and China ample supplies for two months for the Navy, Army and civil population will be assured by this mill.

In conclusion it might not be amiss to give some particulars of the man whose work it is. There is no better known man than Mr. A. H. Rennie and his popularity is unbounded. He was born in 1857 in Aberdeen, Scotland, but he went with his parents in early life to Canada. He began his career as confidential clerk to Hon. John Norquay, premier and province treasurer, Manitoba, during which time he went (in 1887) to England and New York to negotiate a loan for Manitoba. In 1890 he came to Hongkong as correspondence clerk in the P. W. D. In 1892 he was acting assistant Harbour Master and Acting Superintendent Water Police, and in the following year acting Sanitary Superintendent and Secretary of the Sanitary Board, but retired soon after and entered into business as a merchant.

FORESTRY IN COREA.

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT.

An agreement has been signed between the Japanese and Korean Governments concerning the administration of the forest lands on the Yalu and Tumen, which are considered to be one of Korea's greatest resources. The agreement, which has just been published, reads as follows:—

1.—Forestry on the Yalu and Tumen shall be administered in the joint interest of the Japanese and Korean Governments.

2.—The capital for the administration shall be fixed at ¥1,200,000, of which ¥600,000 shall be contributed by each Government.

3.—A special account shall be kept of the forestry business and of receipts and expenses, clearly showing all details. The state of this account shall be reported annually to the Governments of both countries.

4.—The profit and loss shall be equally divided between the two Governments.

5.—When it is considered necessary to increase the capital as provided for in Article II. of this agreement, the consent of both Governments concerned shall be first obtained.

6.—When it is considered necessary to adopt minor rules for the proper execution of this agreement such rules shall be determined by committees appointed by both Governments.

7.—When it becomes necessary to incorporate the business into a company, in order to allow the public of both countries to take part in the business as it advances, the two Governments shall consult and determine the method for organizing the concern into a company.

The agreement was signed on October 19th last, between Marquis Ito, for the Japanese Government, and the Premier and Ministers for Finance and Agriculture, Commerce and Industry of Korea.

AMERICAN FLEET'S VISIT.

The continual booming of guns on the 22nd December heralded the arrival of the American Far Eastern Squadron which is on a visit to Hongkong extending over ten days. At about 11 o'clock on Saturday morning the four large cruisers, the *West Virginia*, the *Pennsylvania*, the *Maryland* and the *Colorado* arrived in the harbour and saluted the port, the courtesy being returned. Then salutes were exchanged between the visitors and the representatives of the French, German and Austrian navies in the man-of-war anchorage. The American fleet is commanded by Rear-Admiral W. H. Brownson, whose flagship is the *West Virginia*.

As the foreign anchorage was practically filled with visiting warships, there was only room therein for two of the American vessels. The Harbour Master, however, came to the rescue by providing two suitable berths in the commercial anchorage for the others, communicating this intelligence to the two vessels by wireless telegraphy, and they were soon snug in their allotted places with anchors down.

This squadron of up-to-date cruisers has a complement all told of 3,600 officers and men, each vessel carrying a crew of 900. The fleet left Manila on December 20th, crossing the China sea at a fifteen knot speed which brought them here sooner than expected.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

GODOWN MEASUREMENTS.

Shanghai, December 18th.

SIR,—Will you allow a sinner to make atonement in your columns for one cubic foot miscalculation?

I am obliged to Mr. David J. Lennox and Mr. A. B. C. for their correction. I admit my mistake, but plead extenuating circumstances, for the reason that in reality I am not six but only one cubic foot wrong in my calculation, namely:—

Gross measurement	1. cub. ft.
Less 30 % for passages	.30
	.70 c. ft.
Less 20 % for loss in stowage	.14
	.56 c. ft.
Less 5 % of the entire floor space used for stairs, shafts for elevators, pillars and tally tables	.5
Total available space	.51 c. ft.

That extra foot I will make a present of to the promoters.—Yours, etc.

HONGKONG CIVIL SERVANTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—An old Hongkongite now at home sends me the enclosed cutting from the *Glasgow Herald* and knowing the cost of living here he says, "Is it any wonder men accept bribes from contractors when such wages are offered for what is expected of them?"

Yours, etc., P.

[The cutting referred to thus reads:—

"Overseer required for drainage work in the Public Works Department of Hongkong. The person engaged will be in charge of drainage works and their construction, maintenance and cleansing. Candidates should be fully competent to set out and supervise cutting and shoring of trenches for sewers and construction of masonry and concrete storm water drains. They should have a good general working knowledge of drainage work, including the laying and jointing of stoneware or concrete pipes, and be able to measure up and make returns of quantities of work done and to make rough sketches and reports on existing drains. Age, between 27 and 35, preferably unmarried.

Salary, £165 per annum, and 180 dollars travelling allowance. Engagement for three years; possible extension with increased pay. Free second class passages out for self, wife and children, not exceeding five persons in all, and home again after three years if engagement not extended. Strict medical examination.

"Applications, stating age, whether married or single, number of children, full particulars of experience, accompanied by copies of testimonials (not originals), with names and addresses of referees of whom inquiry can be made as to capabilities and character, will be received by the Crown Agents for the Colonies, Whitehall Gardens, London, S.W., up to the 17th November. Quote M.2632 and name of this paper on the top left hand corner of letter of application."

Another question arises: How much are the Crown Agents going to profit by this \$130 a month man?

CALCULATING GODOWN SPACE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, December 24th.

SIR,—I have read in this morning's *Daily Press* the letter of Mr. G. Nielsen. I would not have written anything more on the subject had Mr. Nielsen, in his amended statement, not erred in his method of calculating in exactly the same manner as he did when addressing the shareholders, which method he admits in his letter was wrong. If he is going to take off other 5 per cent of the entire floor space for stairs, shafts, elevators, pillars,

and tally tables, he cannot, to be correct, be allowed to take it off the result of the

Second step in the calculation: When he in calculating cubic measurement, is dealing with the entire floor space he must include everything coming under that term in one factor of the statement or equation. To take off 3 per cent for passages, and from the remainder 20 per cent for loss in stowage, and then suddenly take from the result 5 per cent of the whole superficial area of the unit of cubic measurement, is not the way to work measurement.

The clearest and safest way, really, to solve the question is algebraically. Let x equal the net available stowage space after making all allowances. Then

$$1 - (P + p) = S \quad 1 - (P + p) = X.$$

Where P equals 30 per cent for passages

" p " 5 " " " stairs, etc.

" S " 20 " " " loss in stowage

Substituting for the letters their values the equation is:

$$1 - (3 + 5) = 2 \quad 1 - (3 + 5) = X.$$

$$\text{Then, } 65 - 13 = X.$$

$$\text{Therefore, } X = 52 \text{ or } 52 \text{ per cent.}$$

If you have not the type for representing the equation algebraically it may be worked out arithmetically thus:—30 per cent for passages plus 5 per cent for stairs, etc. equals 35 per cent of the entire floor space. Therefore, 1 minus 35 per cent equals 65 per cent. Now 20 per cent of 65 per cent, for loss in stowage, equals 13 per cent. Therefore, 65 per cent minus 13 per cent equals 52 per cent, which is the net available space for stowage after making all allowances.

Mr. Nielsen will, therefore, have to make the promoters of the scheme a present of two cubic feet in every hundred instead of one.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID J. LENNOX.

CALCULATING GODOWN SPACE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Your correspondents have one and all made a miscalculation. They have left out of consideration the space they have taken up in your valuable paper.

The only correct method is as follows. Let us presume that $2 + 2 = 4$; this being so, it follows that in the case of a godown of 4 cubic feet capacity, if 2 feet are taken up by passages, tally sticks, etc., there must of necessity be some space available for storing gin or other goods.

Yours faithfully,

U KLID.

We are obliged to Mr. "Yu Klid" and the other contributors to this correspondence, and have decided that it has now reached a stage at which it may be dropped.—Ed.]

THE EWO COTTON SPINNING AND WEAVING CO., LD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The eleventh ordinary meeting of this company was held at the Shanghai offices of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., on December 18th. There were present: Messrs. H. Keswick (Chairman), P. F. Lavers, A. McLeod, Lord Li Ching-fong and Zee Kwei-ying (Directors), W. N. Fleming (Secretary), J. Byrne Hackett, I. M. Young, J. D. Clark, W. H. Barham, A. L. Anderson, W. C. Murray, H. J. Clark, R. H. Hunt, F. Gore, L. D. Tebb, Woods, J. Kerfoot and Yuen Chan.

The Chairman—Gentlemen,—The audited account of the Ewo Cotton Spinning & Weaving Co., Ltd. for the year ending October 31st, 1906, and accompanying report, have been in the hands of shareholders for the period prescribed by our Articles of Association and with your permission we will follow the usual procedure and accept them as read. At our last annual general meeting on December 16th, 1905, my predecessor announced to the shareholders that the mill's production was sold for four months ahead at good, night and day working profits, and the favourable condition of markets enabling us to continue an adherence to this policy, viz., of selling yarn forward and simultaneously covering with purchases of cotton so as to secure a certain profit—has resulted in the

year's working account showing a larger credit balance than at any previous period in the history of the mill. The price of Chinese cotton throughout the year has remained on a fairly steady level, the average being slightly lower than in 1905. The quality has been good, being notably free from moisture, while the ample supplies have enabled us practically to dispense with the use of the imported article. The engines, boilers and machinery have, according to custom, been thoroughly overhauled during the year, and our manager reports that all are in first-class condition and this is borne out by the fact that in maintaining everything in a most efficient state we have spent no less a sum than Tls. 28,104.70. Turning to the figures in the account naturally the item that must first attract attention is the high sum at which "Yarn Stocks" stand, and in this connection I would explain that over three-quarters of this amount is sold to buyers of unquestionable security and the remainder is taken into new account at a considerable discount on current quotation. There is no cause for apprehension on this latter point. As regards waste the high rate of sterling exchange has enabled consumers to import from Europe on favourable terms, while at the same time prohibiting the export of our production, but I am pleased to say that since stocktaking practically the whole of the stock under this heading has been sold at a profit on the taken over price. I trust that the shareholders will approve the conservative policy recommended by your Committee in the proposed distribution of our available balance. In transferring the sum of Tls. 150,000 to an account for the equalization of dividends it is our aim to place the company on the basis of a steady dividend-paying concern, in preference to distributing the whole of the profits earned during what has been an exceptionally prosperous period. The outlook for the immediate future is, as you are probably aware, by no means as favourable as at the same date last year, and your committee therefore feel justified in recommending that the substantial sum of Tls. 64,986.25 be carried forward to a new account. You will observe that the sum of Tls. 45,939.90 set aside last year for repairs and renewals is still untouched, the expenses incurred under that heading during the year, viz., Tls. 28,104.79 having been borne by the working account. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be very pleased to reply to any question that shareholders may desire to ask.

There being no questions the following resolutions were carried unanimously:—

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. McLeod: That the report and accounts as published be adopted.

Proposed by Mr. W. C. Murray, seconded by Mr. H. J. Clark: That the Consulting Committee as at present constituted be re-elected.

Proposed by Mr. Barham, seconded by Mr. Hunt: That Mr. G. R. Wingrove be re-elected auditor for the current year.

The Chairman thanked those present for their attendance, and announced that dividend warrants would be posted shortly.

THE NEWCHWANG RETROCESSION.

TEXT OF THE CONDITIONS.

A message to the *Asahi* gives the following as the terms of the retrocession of Newchwang as published in the Chinese Press at Shanghai:—

1.—That the Japanese troops should evacuate Newchwang.

2.—That legal cases decided by the Japanese Military Administration office should not be re-tried by the Chinese Court after the retrocession of the port.

3.—That Japanese should be engaged for the police and health administrations.

4.—That the water-works and electric light business in Newchwang should be conducted in the joint interest of Japanese and Chinese.

5.—That the existing telephone service opened by the Japanese authorities should be purchased by the Chinese telegraph office.

6.—That the slaughter-house should be repurchased by the Chinese authorities.

7.—That the Customs revenue should be temporarily deposited at the Specie Bank.

COMMERCIAL.

KOBE MARKET REPORT.

The Kobe Market Report, published under the direction of the Kobe Foreign Board of Trade, and dated (Kobe) Hiogo, 14th December, 1906, has the following:—

IMPORTS.

Cotton.—American.—Since our last report quotations for "forward" were maintaining a firm attitude, but prices dropped very appreciably yesterday upon it being officially reported that the new crop was estimated at over 12,500,000 bales. Notwithstanding this movement, legitimate transactions are still impracticable owing to speculations which continue. Spot business is small in consequence of shortage of stocks, closing quotation being Yen 33.50 for Middling Indian.—The past fortnight has seen but little change; the recent drop in price of American cotton, however, has affected the Indian market, and prices have become easier. Spot business is small. Quotations are:—Best Branch, Yen 29; Yeothm, Yen 23; Akola Khamguam, Yen 21; Bengal, Yen 20. Chinese.—There is no change to report, transactions being small. Best quality, Yen 29; Common quality, Yen 25. Shirtings.—Little or nothing doing. Cotton Goods and Fancies.—Forward enquiry quieter. Worsteds and Woollens.—Business continues satisfactory. Window Glass.—Market slowly following the upward tendency of the producing country. Metals.—Home prices continue to advance which tends to restrict fresh forward business. Some speculative re-sales in Pig Iron are reported at 61d. (Kobe). Sugar.—Beet.—The home markets have shown an upward tendency since the end of last month whereas prices in Japan remain stationary; under these circumstances chances for business are more remote than ever. Cane.—There is no demand for imported Refined and no business to report. In Raws the market remains quiet. There has been some inquiry, but the ideas of sellers being considerably above the price consumers are prepared to pay no transactions have been concluded. Osaka Refined.—At the auction held on the 7th instant 3,500 bags changed hands. Some of the higher grades obtained an advance of from 3 to 7 sen, but the lower qualities were sold at the rates fetched at the last auction. Rice.—Stocks are moving slowly, but more inquiry for new crop February to March shipment.

EXPORTS.

Fish Oil.—No change to report. Copper.—The market is in an excited condition owing to the report of a further advance in London, and it is difficult to come to terms with producers. Rice.—Market firm, but very little business for export doing. Cotton Yarns.—A slight improvement in export, with prices steadily advancing for spot and forward. Vegetable Wax.—Nothing doing but dealers maintain their firm attitude. [Matting.—Certain negotiations which have been pending between exporters and suppliers not having as yet been concluded, business has practically been at a standstill. Prices have remained unchanged in consequence. Straw Braid.—Supplies have been coming in more freely during the past fortnight, a large number of plaiters having been released from field work in connection with the Rice harvests. The strong demand for certain descriptions, however, has well maintained prices generally, and a firm market is reported in the producing centres. Chip Braid.—A good demand existed for this article, and prices have been well sustained.

YOKOHAMA MARKET REPORT

The Yokohama Prices Current and Market Report, published by the Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade, and dated, Yokohama, December 15th, 1906, has the following:—

IMPORTS.

Yarns.—Market lifeless.—Shirtings.—No change since last report. Fancy Cottons and Woollens.—There is some enquiry, but very little business is being put through. Metals.—All lines are quiet, owing to the approach of the end of the year. The feeling seems to be that top prices have now been reached in the home markets, and that it will pay to wait until the change of the year before buying. Kerosene.—Market very firm. Sugar.—The tone of the market is firm, consequent upon the comparatively good demand at the end of the year. At the auction of the Tokyo Refinery on the 6th instant, there were 5,100 bags of various grades sold at prices ranging from yen 15.85 to yen 14.15. The next auction will be held in a few days, and it is generally anticipated that the prices offered then will be higher than those of the previous sale. There is no enquiry for imported Refined. Indigo (natural).—Recent arrivals of about 60 cases Madras Indigo have found purchasers at good prices, and a small business is also reported in Java Indigo.

GENERAL EXPORTS.

Copper.—A few more sales of Furukawa brand are reported at figures from Yen 56 to Yen 60 per 100 kin for delivery till September, 1907. In sympathy with the strong position at home the market closes very firm. Fish Oil.—A few thousand cases are reported sold at Yen 7.20 to Yen 7.30 per 100 kin.

SILK REPORT.

During the fortnight under review, prices have again advanced by leaps and bounds, so that quotations in some instances are even Y50 higher than last reported. Scarcity of stock is already beginning to be felt, which remark refers more especially to Kakedas and Rereels, of which latter Silks no more than about 300 bales "Chop Silks," viz., Usuisha, Kanrasha, and Simonita, are expected to arrive during the balance of the season. At the close things generally are very firm, and quotations for several grades quite nominal.

WASTE SILK.

A regular business doing, prices tending upwards with every new transaction. Settlements from November 29th to December 11th:—4,530 piculs. Total Settlements from July 1st to December 14th:—21,000 piculs. Stock on the 11th December is estimated at 20,500 piculs, viz.:—Noshi 8,600 piculs; Kibizzo 9,900 piculs; Pierced Cocoons—piculs; Sundries 2,000 piculs.

RICE.

Sales. 11th December, 1906.—Old grain is almost exhausted, and the little remaining is held at high prices. New Paddy has begun to appear in small parcels, and will come in more freely during the next month. Prospects of the new Crop are on the whole very fair, Paddy is now being harvested in most of the districts, and the out-turn is expected to be a very fair average. Transactions closed, so far, with Europe and neighbouring ports have been but on a small scale. We do not expect to see our market in full swing before the beginning of next month, when a more accurate opinion can be formed as to how values are likely to settle.

We quote for New Grain, February/March delivery.

No 2 White sifted (top) steam milled (round)	
No. 2 White unsifted (ordinary) steam milled (round)	\$3 20
5 % Cargo steam milled (round)	\$2.75
10 % Cargo steam milled (round)	\$2.70
20 % Cargo steam milled (round)	\$2.65

* Prices according to terms and conditions.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee, in his Report dated Hongkong 28th December, 1906, states:—To-day marks the end of the season, and a casual glance at the progress of the trade during the past twelve months cannot be out of place.

Imports to Hongkong amount to 269,869 bales as against 338,696 bales last year, and sales aggregate \$1,518 bales as against 147,617 bales in 1905, showing a decrease of 26 and 47 per cent. respectively. The decrease in imports may be attributed to the heavy influx of yarn at the latter end of last year, in anticipation of the opening of the Manchurian markets. Considering the wretched state of the up-country demand for the greater part of this year, and the suspension of all operations for three months in Hongkong, the large shrinkage in sales should create little surprise. In briefly reviewing 1906, it may be pronounced to have been the most disastrous year the trade has experienced since its commencement. With the exception of the Bombay spinners, who have been driving a roaring trade since the last eighteen months, business has been more or less detrimental to our unfortunate importers and dealers. When it is recorded that the losses are roughly estimated at close upon three millions, and that of some fifteen yarn-dealing Hong Kong eleven have collapsed, it requires no further proof to show the serious nature of the disaster of which we have not heard the last. The first note of alarm was sounded as early as March last, but a sort of unusual infatuation possessed both sellers and buyers, and matters grew from bad to worse when in August the evil effects of over-trading and gambling was first felt in the total collapse of a large native dealer. Efforts were then made to patch up the market by the total suspension of business for three months, which also proved abortive in the face of incessant heavy supplies that ought to have been originally largely curtailed if not wholly checked. The year opened with an unsold stock of 84,000 bales and ends with 166,000, the entire quantity of yarn held by the insolvent dealers falling back upon sellers with a small exception. The value of best No. 10s stood at \$117 at the beginning of the year and closes to-day at \$92. Exchange on India ruled in

the neighbourhood of Rs. 151 in January and is quoted to-day at Rs. 167.

The great drawback to the trade is the overproduction in India and consequent overflowing of the China markets regardless of season and local circumstances. In this connection the remarks made by the writer in his annual report for 1898 may be more appropriately repeated. "So long as the business continues on a scale of commission to Hongkong houses commensurate with about a labourer's fair day's pay results do not immediately affect the sellers here, and if all yarn that cannot be sold on the spot in Bombay is to be consigned, so long may the present state of business in them be reasonably expected to continue to the detriment of legitimate trade."

On 30th June, 1906, there were in India 217 Spinning and Weaving Mills working and in course of erection, running 5,279,595 spindles and 52,668 looms, employing daily 208,616 average number of hands and consuming 2,023,516 bales of Cotton.

Considering that only 3 or 4 buyers are left in the market a fairly large business has been effected during the past fortnight. Demand has run chiefly on well known superior favourite spinnings of No. 10s, which comprises more than three-fourths of the settlements. Values have further receded \$1 to \$2 per bale, the higher counts suffering the most. Shanghai is reported very active and advancing, and has tended in a great measure to strengthen holders and rally the market. Receipts during the interval have been small, but a very heavy addition may be noted in our estimate of unsold stock which includes about 70,000 bales recently held by our insolvent dealers and which have fallen back upon sellers.

Sales of the interval aggregate 6,927 bales arrivals amount to 5,670, and unsold stock estimated at 166,000 bales.

Local Manufacture.—After some interval the sale of 150 bales No. 10s at \$75 to \$81 are reported.

Japanese Yarn.—About 150 bales No. 20s at \$130 are reported to have changed hands.

Raw Cotton.—The market continues in the same dull and dragging state as previously advised. Sales reported are some 200 bales Bengal at from \$19½ to \$21½, and China 75 bales at \$21. Quotations are India \$19 to \$21½ and China \$22½ to \$2.

Exchange on India closes to-day at Rs. 167 for T.T. and Rs. 167½ for Post. On Shanghai 78 and on Japan 110½.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 13th December, 1906, states:—Although showing no great development the improvement in our market mentioned last week is still apparent, but has not yet got much beyond the enquiry stage. It undoubtedly emanates chiefly from Tientsin; and it looks as though the merchants there are realising that perhaps they have held off long enough, seeing the small chance there is of buying anything in New York for direct shipment to their Port, for it is self-evident now that this market holds the only supplies that will be available for the New Year. There has been a fair business from second hand holders at prices, however, which importers cannot possibly entertain, but it shows the disposition to trade is there, although the current offers are fully 10 per cent. below replacing cost, and the customary terms for clearance are required. In very exceptional cases, where firms are in the position to do so, a few small sales of cheaply bought goods have been made to arrive, but for hard cargo holders refuse to entertain offers for forward delivery, while they might possibly accept cash. Amongst the resales we understand a fairly large quantity of White Shirtings figure—goods that have been hanging fire for so long, and over which the holders have been hoping against hope. The Manchester market shows no sign of relaxing and buyers here of staple goods are not at all inclined to pay the prices asked, combined as they are in most cases with fairly late delivery. American Cotton is drooping, 5.69d. being the latest spot quotations for Middling in Liverpool, while for this month 5.55d. is the last price quoted. On the other hand Egyptian is steadily creeping up, 10½d. being Tuesday's closing rate. The New York prices for cotton that have been wired as ruling look somewhat irregular, namely—0.16 cents for January and 0.65 down to 0.35 for March option. The Yarn market, for imported Spinning more particularly, is keeping very firm. It is said that a Native syndicate which took over the balance of the stock of the Bombay houses that recently came to grief here are doing remarkably well with the handling of it. But however that

may be there is no doubt of a much healthier feeling in the market, which it is said has led to some speculative forward purchases, through one could hardly imagine there was much inducement while stocks here remain so abundant. The market for Native Cotton has been rather more active, but prices show little or no change, closing quiet but firm. Grey Shirtings.—Although no doubt a certain amount of reselling is going on in these market, private business from first hands is very slack and consists generally of small trivial lots of consignment cargo. For instance, we have heard of sales of about 4,250 pieces 39-inch goods of various weights from 11 to 15-lbs. at Tls. 3.60 to Tls. 4.45, under new chops, and doubtless other sales of a similar nature are being made, but can scarcely be taken as any criterion of the market. White Shirtings.—Though we have not heard of any transactions in spot cargo from first hands we understand resales of some 500 cases have been made to Hankow merchants at prices ranging from Tls. 3.50 to Tls. 4.50, a comparatively small but welcome relief to the market. T-Cloths and Jeans.—These goods also show a substantial improvement at Auction. Drills and Sheetings.—A distinctly strong feeling has sprung up during the latter part of the interval and prices are improving daily, especially for the former. There have been considerable resales to Tientsin. Fancy Goods.—A feature this week has been a revival in the enquiry for Prints, although so far it has only taken shape in a few indents for special designs for January-March shipment. Dried goods appear to have got out of reach with the late rise in Egyptian Cotton. At auction Turkey Reds continue to improve, at all events in newer chops. Fast Black Cotton Italians appear to have about reached their limit, and though they sold very irregularly this morning the tendency was slightly lower. Woollens.—In Camlets pink has recovered and some of the other colors are firmer, but Scarlet is weaker again. Long Ells are firmer and also the higher reed of Lastings, while Spanish Stripes are fairly steady.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, Dec. 28th.

ON LONDON.—Telegraphic Transfer	2/3 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	2/3 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/3 1/2
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	2/3 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/3 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/3 1/2
ON PARIS.—Bank Bills, on demand	295 1/2
Credits 4 months' sight	290
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	232
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	54 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	56
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	167
Bank, on demand	167 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	167
Bank, on demand	167 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	73 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	110 1/2
ON MANILA.—On demand	110 1/2
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	3 1/2 p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	136 1/2
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	1 1/2 p.m.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	1 1/2 p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	61
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$8.750
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$46.6
BAR SILVER, per oz.	32 1/2

SHARE REPORTS.

Messrs J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending December 20th, 1906, states:—The feature of the week has been a very sharp rise in the price of Indos, and there are now buyers at Tls. 71 for December Settlement. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. A fair business has been done in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Shares at \$825, and there are now buyers at that rate. The London quotation is £33.15s.0d. The T. T. on London to-day is 3/4. Marine and Fire Insurance.—North Chinas have been dealt in at Tls. 80, and there are further shares offering at that rate. Shipping.—Indos. The market opened at Tls. 64 for December, and business was reported at Tls. 64, 62 1/4, 70 and 71 for December. An odd lot of shares changed hands on the 19th at Tls. 61 for December, but the rate is still strong at Tls. 71. The March quotation is Tls. 59, 61 and 63. Shanghai Tug and Lighter Co. Ordinary shares were sold at Tls. 54 1/2 and Preference

at Tls. 60. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co. Rates declined steadily during the week, business being quoted at Tls. 108 1/2, 107 1/2, 107, 105 and 104 for December. Tls. 106 and 103 March. Shanghai & Hongkew Wharves. This market has been steady during the week, business being quoted at Tls. 232 1/2, 235 December, and Tls. 245 March. Sugar.—No business reported. Lands.—A single operation is reported in the new issue at Tls. 57, and old shares are finding buyers at Tls. 95 with a few shares offering. Mining.—No business reported. Kaipings are wanted at \$10.65. Industrial.—Laou Kung Mow Shares have risen steadily to Tls. 103 for December, but the other Cotton Mills show a decline in rates. Ewos changed hands at Tls. 73 cum div. and Tls. 63 ex. div. for December and Internationals at Tls. 61 and 64 for December. Shanghai Gas Shares. Business has been done in the new issue at Tls. 105, and the old issue is quoted at Tls. 109. Sumatras. Business is reported at Tls. 86 and Tls. 86 1/2 December, the last transaction being done at Tls. 87 for December. Langkats. This market has remained very steady, business being reported at Tls. 239, Tls. 238, Tls. 240 and Tls. 241 December cum dividend, and Tls. 212 1/2 March. Stores and Hotels. Aster House Shares are wanted at \$30 and Moutries have been dealt in at \$65. Miscellaneous.—Telephones are finding buyers at Tls. 60 and Electric at \$24. Loans and Debentures.—Perak Sugar 7 per cent. Debentures. A quotation has been made at Tls. 87 1/2, and Shanghai Land 6 per cent. Debentures have changed hands at Tls. 97.

HONGKONG, 28th December, 1906. The Christmas holidays have materially interfered with a continued dull market, and we have but little to report in the way of actual business; while rates, however, have suffered to some extent in most stocks from a neglected market and the settlements, which latter have been put through to-day without any serious difficulties arising. Exchange on London closes at 2s. 3 1/2 d., and on Shanghai at 72 1/2.

BANKS.—We have no change or business to report.

MARINE INSURANCES.—The market remains unchanged.

FIRE INSURANCES.—With the exception of China Fires, which close with buyers at 89 1/2, we have no change or business to report.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have improved to 82 1/2 with buyers, but we have heard of no sales. Indos have ruled weaker during the week with sellers at 89 1/2, but no sales have been effected and the market closes weak at 890 with sellers. Star Ferries have been enquired for but no sales have been reported. We have nothing else to report under this heading.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have declined further to 8125 with sellers, while sales over the settlements are reported at lower rates. Luzons remain unchanged and without business.

MINING.—Rauhs have been placed in small lots at 88 and 88 1/2, closing at the latter rate.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have continued weak, and with shares offering for the settlement the rate fell with sellers and no buyers until the few shares offering were cleared off the market, when they recovered a little, and the market now closes fairly steady at \$145. Kowloon Wharves have continued in demand at 89 1/2, but no sales have been reported and the market closes unchanged. Shanghai Docks have been dealt in, chiefly on a Shanghai demand, at from Tls. 104 to Tls. 108, the closing rate in Shanghai being Tls. 105 sellers. Hongkew Wharves have ruled firmer, and after sales in Shanghai at Tls. 235 close with further buyers at that rate.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands, after fair sales at \$105 and \$106, close firmer with probable buyers at \$107. Humphreys' Estates continue in demand at \$11 1/2 without bringing any shares on the market, and it is probable that \$11 1/2 would be paid for shares. We have nothing else to report under this heading.

COTTON MILLS.—The latest quotations for the Northern Mills from Shanghai are Internationals Tls. 64, Laou Kung Mows Tls. 105 (a rise of 16 points), and Soey Chees Tls. 335 buyers. Hongkong Cottons remain unchanged and without business at \$13 sellers.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Providents and Electric have changed hands at quotations. Dairy Farms have found buyers at \$16 and \$16 1/2 and Watsons at the improved rate of \$12. Green Islands, after further sales at \$20 1/2 have been placed at \$21 and \$21 1/2, closing with sellers at the latter rate. Loss have declined to \$230 without business. We have nothing further to report.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$120
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	\$825 sellers
National B. of China		London, £94
A. Shares	28	\$47, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$7, sellers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$10, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$10
China Provident	\$10	\$9.25, sales
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 63
Hongkong	\$10	\$13, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 64
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 105
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 335, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$16 1/2
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$94, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$145
New Amoy Dock	\$61	\$16 sellers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 105
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharves	Tls. 100	Tls. 235
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$21, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$21, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$15 1/2, sales & buy
H. H. I. Tramways	\$100	\$215
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$112 1/2
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$230, sellers
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$22, sellers
H'kong S. Waterboat	\$10	\$7, sales
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$207, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$93, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$95
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$335, sellers
North China	\$25	Tls. 82 1/2, sellers
Union	\$100	\$760, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$160, sellers
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$107, buyers
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$11 1/2, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$38, sales
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 97
West Point Building	Tls. 25	Tls. 57, n. issue.
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$450, nominal
Rauhs	18 10	\$8 1/2
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$5
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$125, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$21, sellers
Steamship Companies—		
China and Manila	\$25	\$21, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$37, sellers
H. Canton & M.	\$15	\$27 1/2, buyers
Indo-China S.N. Co.	\$10	\$90 sellers
Shell Transport Co.	\$21	\$30, sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$26 1/2, buyers
Do. New	\$5	\$17 1/2
South China M. Post	\$25	\$23
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$5 1/2
Stores & Dispensaries—		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$32
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$8, sellers
Watkins	\$10	\$2.50 sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$12, sales
United Asbestos	\$4	\$10, buyers
Do. Founders	\$10	\$150

VERNON & SMYTH Brokers.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

December—ARRIVALS

22. E. B. Sutton, Amr. ship, from Haiphong.
 23. Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 23. Polynesien, French str., from Yokohama.
 23. Ras Bera, British str., from New York.
 23. Shaohsing, British str., from Shanghai.
 23. Soahu Maru, Japanese str., from Shanghai.
 23. Triumph, German str., from Haiphong.
 24. Borneo, German str., from Sandakan.
 24. E. F. Ferdinand, Austrian str., from Kobe.
 24. Euphrate, French str., from Singapore.
 24. Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
 24. Petchaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
 24. Bubi, British str., from Manila.
 24. Salazie, French str., from Marseilles.
 24. Simongan, Dutch str., from Samarang.
 24. Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Australia.
 25. Hsin Kong, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 25. Kamakura Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
 25. Karin, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.
 25. Knutsford, British str., from K'notsu.
 25. Kumano Maru, Jap. str., from Nagasaki.
 25. Shantung, British str., from Java.
 26. Arrow, British 4-m. bk., from Canton.
 26. C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 26. Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
 26. Feiching, Chinese str., from Canton.
 26. Folsjo, Norwegian str., from Port Louis.
 26. Frigga, Norwegian str., from Canton.
 26. Glenloch, British str., from London.
 26. Hopsang, British str., from Hongay.
 26. Joshi Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 26. Kabafuto Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 26. Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
 26. Petronia, Russian str., from Nagasaki.
 26. Standard, Norwegian str., from Hilo.
 27. Delhi, British str., from Shanghai.
 27. Delta, British str., from Bombay.
 27. Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 27. Hakata Maru, Japanese str., from London.
 27. Johanna, German str., from Haiphong.
 27. Kowloon, German str., from Chinkiang.
 27. Kwangle, Chinese str., from Canton.
 27. Mad. Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
 27. Riojun Maru, Jap. str., from Bombay.
 27. Shaohsing, British str., from Canton.
 27. Sui Tai, German str., from Shanghai.
 27. Suito, German str., from Shanghai.
 27. Taming, British str., from Manila.
 27. Varg, Norwegian str., from Chinkiang.
- December—DEPARTURES.
23. Amigo, German str., for Pakhoi.
 24. Carnarvonshire, Brit. str., for Shanghai.
 24. C. Ferd. Laeisz, Ger. str., for Hamburg.
 25. Cheongchow, British str., for Amoy.
 25. Cheongshing, British str., for Saigon.
 25. Chowfa, German str., for Swatow.
 25. Germauia, German str., for Samarang.
 25. Hangsang, British str., for Swatow.
 25. Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 25. Pitsaulok, German str., for Swatow.
 25. Polynesien, French str., for Europe.
 25. Pronto, Norwegian str., for Hoihow.
 25. Ras Bera, British str., for Shanghai.
 25. Salazie, French str., for Shanghai.
 25. Tango Maru, Japanese str., for Seattle.
 25. Tydeus, British str., for Seattle.
 25. Wakamatsu Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 26. Birma, Danish str., for Yokohama.
 26. China, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
 26. Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 26. Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
 26. Kamakura Maru, Jap. str., for London.
 26. Tean, British str., for Manila.
 26. Tungus, Norwegian str., for Tsingtau.
 26. Wosang, British str., for Swatow.
 27. Choysang, British str., for Canton.
 27. Euphrate, French str., for Shanghai.
 27. Feiching, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 27. Kwangse, British str., for Shanghai.
 27. Prometheus, Norw. str., for Bangkok.
 27. Providence, Norw. str., for Canton.
 27. Soahu Maru, Japanese str., for Shanghai.
 27. Yawata Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Korea, from San Francisco, &c., Mrs. G. D. Tooker, Miss C. Brownson, Mrs. E. W. Bogert, Mr. J. J. Barton, Mrs. M. Layton, Miss M. E. Layton, Mr. and Mrs. S. Erlanger, Messrs. E. W. Smith, J. B. Sherbourne, W. P. Poland, Miss W. A. Plian, Messrs. J. B. Thompson, C. N. Guertin, E. W. Fean, J. G.

Harbord, Harry D. Smith, B. B. Dillworth, B. F. Lyman, Mrs. A. B. Dillworth, Mrs. R. F. Edwards and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Armour, Rev. R. F. Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Ceiro and son, Mr. W. E. Wiggin, Miss Ann Orr, Mr. H. A. Glover, Lieut. C. F. Freis, U.S.A., Mrs. Fisher, Mr. J. Mijon, Mrs. S. B. Hartray, Miss B. Jones, Miss Fisher, Messrs. F. M. Hicks, F. A. Wills, Miss N. Jones, Mr. L. Lewis, Lieut. D. Whiting, U.S.A., Messrs. T. So. lby, L. Layard, Mrs. Kendall, Dr. J. H. Biggar, Mrs. L. F. Kom and child, Dr. A. D. Wilkinson, Mr. R. Hardine, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Funch, Messrs. G. Susmann, P. Tregillus, Otto Blell, Ellis Kadoorie, and Miss C. Huina.

Per Seydlitz, for Hongkong from Southampton, Mrs. Gordon and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. James Walker and child, Miss Ada Browne, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. White and child, and Mr. Nelson W. Noakes; from Genoa, Messrs. Aug. Ehlers, Carlos Gsell, Rev. F. T. Johnson, Major and Mrs. Alfred Hatch, Mr. and Mrs. R. Henkel, Dr. W. Oehler, Messrs. Sam. Mayer, Otto Lohes, Miss Uerra Platers, Messrs. Vicente Echarri and Sola Urra; from Port Said, Brig. Gen. and Mrs. A. L. Mills, Lieut. J. W. Clark and Mr. Nacsmalla; from Penang, Mr. H. H. Blackmore; from Singapore, Messrs. Hans Figge, E. Watjen, A. D. McCraith, Dr. Nobler, Capt. P. Hermeling, and Mr. A. C. Bramwell; for Shanghai from Hamburg, Messrs. Bruno Stange, Waldemar Biswang, Capt. J. Jensen, Mr. and Mrs. Cantorowitsch, Mrs. Geime Vass and 5 children, Miss Ch. Voget, Messrs. A. Preussler, Robert Lindemann, Hermann Clauss, Johe. Profener and C. R. Berg; from Southampton, Misses Florence and Leisa Middleton, Mrs. C. Dewing, Mr. W. Thomas, Miss Andrea Thue, Miss Jaga Orser, Mrs. Talbot, Miss Leggat, Mrs. Mary Hanab, and Mrs. Lee, from Genoa, Mr. and Mrs. Rud. Buck, Messrs. R. Bergemann, Leone Bassano, Mr. and Mrs. Lemke and child, Mr. Charles H. Arnold, Mr. and Mrs. G. U. Robins, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Axlen, Miss von Leszczinsky, Mr. Truppel and family, Mr. and Mrs. Helliner, Messrs. Andreas Petri, Rudolph Jensen, Hans R. Johansen, Miss Louise Behnker, Miss Enilie Vossler, Messrs. Friedrich Rohrich, F. Mehler, Theodor Pichler, A. Horav, H. W. Spark and Zanella Guispp; from Naples, Mrs. arle; from Colombo, Miss J. E. Davidson; from Singapore, Messrs. M. W. Robertson, A. Henderson, Mr. and Mrs. S. Salomon, Messrs. Ch. W. Frankel, Fritz Sachs, Mr. and Mrs. G. Felis Naron, and Mr. Vionerto Lemke; for Nagasaki from Genoa, Mr. and Miss Walker; for Kobe from Southampton, Mr. D. Malcolm Bruce; from Genoa, Messrs. Hermann Teubner, Theodor Golonchouoff; for Yokohama from Hamburg, Mrs. and Miss von Neumann; from Southampton, Mr. L. J. Galmer; from Genoa, Capt. Schellhass and family, Messrs. R. M. Moneriff, Mr. and Mrs. Macks and child, Miss Hilde Maack, Miss Helene Bessort; from Port Said, Mr. Bary S. Ellrich; from Colombo, Messrs. Carl Wallis and D. Dahlberg; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Sohnemann and child and Miss J. L. Boman.

Per Tango Maru, from Seattle, &c., Messrs. A. Pohl, J. Lowrance, Mr. and Mrs. A. Hay and 2 children, Messrs. N. Rajabally, Vesper, J. Woodruff, H. Iviney, H. Fraser, E. Branscombe, E. Dalsell, S. Bonnet, F. Itman, Girlstone, Miss Bentes, Madame M. Hooton, Mrs. Smith, Master Hole, Mrs. Noon, Master Cooper, Master Salmon, Master Burgess, Mr. M. Duncos, Miss O. Duncan, Messrs. F. Warner, Gendreau, T. Kelly, Heffernan, W. Kopping and R. Donald.

Per Polynesien, for Hongkong from Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. Ardinet and infant; from Shanghai, Mr. Griffiths, Mr. and Mrs. Souca-belle and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. Connell, Mrs. Reunon, Mr. and Mrs. Kerchoff, Miss Colling, Mrs. Judge, Messrs. O'Neil, Hamer de Rosa, de Gracon, Barham, L'Gini, Silva, Reichell and Thomboung; for Saigon from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Polant; from Shanghai, Mrs. Holder, Mrs. Malchowska, and Mr. Lisbandy; for Singapore from Yokohama, Mr. Boophland; from Kobe, Miss Heany; from Shanghai, Messrs. Broog, Retenoband and Becker; for Marseilles from Yokohama, Messrs. Guerin, Chagnard, Morris, Kane and Guy; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Erdinger, Mr. and Mrs. Minal and 3 children, Miss Pilmann; Messrs. William, Basset, Estaque, Calves, de Jarente, and Capt. Bonaparte.

Per Salazie, for Hongkong from Marseilles, Mr. Sanchis de Migaudis, Mr. and Mrs. Sanchis, and Mr. W. W. Wilson; from Colombo, Mr. Basimandad; from Saigon, Mr. and Mrs. Bishop and infant, Messrs. Du Dognon and Adobrahim; for Shanghai from Marseilles, Messrs. Lonail, J. Argy, Casvnel, Perrin, Abguillen, and Sister de la Croix; from Djibouti, Messrs. Ahmes and Brien; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Jos. A. and 3 children; from Singapore, Mrs. Lothie, Messrs. Mayer, Stroutman, Thomas Li and Luissin; for Kobe from Marseilles, Messrs. Carl Duvivier, V. Nahinne, A. Orts and Hemet; for Yokohama from Marseilles, Messrs. Rene Harte, Hubert Cottignies, de Bart Semy, J. B. Blow, Tomy Aroui, Mr. Gerard and Mrs. Gerardmere; from Singapore, Mr. Kahn; from Saigon, Messrs. Kahn and Dufaux.

Per Hokata Maru, from London for Hongkong, Miss M. Banister, Miss M. I. Stobart, Capt. H. Malkin, Messrs. C. Betton, N. Leatham, T. W. Arscott, J. D. Stobart, H. Mannheim, A. R. Simpson and child, Mr. and Mrs. R. Leach, Messrs. W. McKinnon, H. Flashman, T. Last, J. Talbot and Leach; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. A. Earl, Capt. A. Nakajima, Mr. and Mrs. G. Espada and child, Messrs. J. Hawkins and F. Dickson.

Per Delta, from London, &c., Major and Mrs. Foster, Mr. and Mrs. Miss and Master Jay, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander, Mr. Elives, Capt. Fielder, Dr. G. Thompson, Mr. F. B. Richards, Mrs. Hardy and 2 children, Messrs. MacGhee, E. B. Jones, A. Brandis, Sergt. and Mrs. Lambden and child, Messrs. P. E. Williams, A. V. Pittcairn, Mrs. Abbott, Messrs. McCulloch, W. A. Pope, H. Edge, Mrs. Thomas and infant, Mr. Cabershaw, Mrs. Matt Smith, Mrs. Duncan, Messrs. A. H. Ashton, C. Watkins, Dr. J. A. Churchill, Dr. Keith, Messrs. J. Knox, J. H. H. Rogers, Khan and G. Reader.

Per Delhi, from Yokohama for New York, Mr. and Miss Brown and Mr. C. A. Allen; from Kobe for Marseilles, Mr. W. H. Gill; from Shanghai for Hongkong, Messrs. E. Murphy, H. J. Allen, F. G. Godden, Major and Mrs. Peters, Messrs. R. P. Silby, F. Pollock, S. Gaikwad, Bennant and Klamm, for Singapore, Mr. Matheron and Capt. Stockley; for Bombay, Messrs. A. T. A. Ebrahim and Noasserwalla; for Marseilles, Mr. M. Peine.

DEPARTED.

Per Prins Regent Luitpold, for Bremen, &c., Lady Alexander, Mr. Raymundo Alvares, H. E. and Lady C. Baroli, Mr. Blüthgen, Dr. Bockelberg, Mr. C. Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Bodemeyer, Mr. F. Barry, Vice-Admiral Albano Alves Branco, Mr. Georg Beermann, Miss H. L. Condor, Mrs. S. Chapman, Miss Fay, Chapman, Messrs. Gilmore Carter, A. A. dos Santos Cavocob, E. Chalmers, Colledge, Mrs. Lichtensfels, Messrs. J. Dechuer, H. McDougall, Miss L. Daniels, Mr. Eblert, Mrs. Gardner-Hall, Mr. L. Gentile, Mrs. Geo. Hunt and Mrs. William Grut, Mrs. Hermine Hora, Mr. and Mrs. A. Hassam, Miss Hill, Mr. van der Haan, Dr. and Mrs. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Koch and child, Mr. James King, General Consul F. Krien, Mr. and Mrs. Liddell and child, Messrs. John Low, C. Lege, Dr. Luzi, Mr. and Mrs. Leising and child, Messrs. A. J. Marchant, N. J. Marumo, Mr. and Mrs. J. Meiklejohn, Messrs. Nielsen, Ed. R. Newmann, Mrs. A. C. Orr, Mrs. P. V. Palmenberg, Mr. and Mrs. Benken and child, Messrs. Rienau, Robrbeck, W. Spiller, Dr. Schulte, Mrs. A. Fl. Smith, Messrs. L. Schmidt, Weber, Wagner, Mrs. F. E. Wills, and Westminster Concert Party.

Per Polynesien, from Hongkong for Saigon, Rev. Pere Duquet, Messrs. M. M. Bouchut, L. N. J. de Boysson and Stable; for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. J. Walter Allison, Mrs. Willcomacho, Messrs. F. W. Sergeant, Fritz Sachs and I. T. River; for Marseilles, Messrs. Brugnion Gonz de St Seine, Migoon and P. J. McLoughlin.

Per Kamakura Maru, for London, &c., Capt. M. C. Bigelow, Major I. Isuda, Capt. Z. Agawa, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Wood, Capt. N. Nielsen, Messrs. Jas. H. McGuffin, M. J. Doctor, D. R. Digaria, R. Halewyck, Ed. Combes and A. L. Lodes.

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